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Staff at the TASE seem relieved at yesterday's session, as the Two-Sided and Maof indexes recovered after Sunday's drop.

TASE rebounds after Sunday losses

Investor asks High Court to force premier to keep no-tax promise

SHARES on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rebounded moderately yesterday, offsetting some of Sunday's sharp losses triggered by the government's announcement of a capital gains tax on profits starting January 1.

The Two-Sided Index closed up 2.25%, or 3.72 points to 168.90. The Maof index of the largest shares rose by 1.93%, while the Karam index of smaller stocks lost 0.2%.

Midday Sunday, the government's announcement of the tax was met with a sharp drop in the original plan, saying it would allow profits to offset losses.

However, the furor over the government's handling of the tax refused to go away yesterday, and several investors petitioned the High Court of Justice over it.

There was considerable speculation over the rate at which offset gains would be taxed. But Finance Ministry spokesman Eli Yosef said the ministry has yet to complete its proposal on the option to offset losses from taxable capital gains, and refused all speculation on the subject both as it related to individuals and to mutual funds.

Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu said his party would cancel the new tax if and when it returned to power, and called for replacing it with a 1% turnover tax to be imposed on all transactions. (See adjacent story)

Trading on the TASE was relatively calm yesterday in comparison with Sunday's panic selling. Trading opened with an excess of sell orders of about NIS 70 million. Dealers were heartened by the fact that there were some buyers to be found, and that it looked like the wave of mutual fund redemptions had leveled off.

The overall trend was towards stabilization, with slight rises regis-

RACHEL NEIMAN
and EVELYN GORDON

tered in some areas as brokers cautioned clients to act with restraint. "The brokers and speculators were very active today," a spokesman for First International Bank said. "The professionals are taking advantage of the sharp movements. Most of the public is waiting on the sidelines waiting for further developments."

Shares most heavily traded included Teva, Israel Chemicals, Koor, Delek and Osem. The oil sector led the market upwards, due in part to rumors that one company had imported unusually large quantities of pipe material. There was heated bidding on Isramco, which had risen 10% by midday.

However, Isramco said it routinely imports material for its on-going oil exploration activity. The company has said its policy is to report relevant information to the investing public according to TASE by-laws. No new bulletins had been issued and business was being conducted as usual with no news to report, Isramco added.

At the High Court of Justice, petitioners demanded that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin be forced to keep his public promise of two months ago that no tax will be imposed on the stock market as long as he remains prime minister.

Another petition filed yesterday asked that the bourse be closed down until the government makes up its mind on what form the tax will actually take, and clarifies this matter to the public.

The petition against Rabin was filed by Tel Aviv attorney Ya'acov Skarvanik, who said he has invested considerable funds in the bourse. After the market began to fall in March, he said, he considered withdrawing his money and investing it in real estate. On June

26, however, at an economic meeting in Caesarea, Rabin promised that no tax would be imposed on market profits. In light of this promise, Skarvanik said, he decided to stay in the market, on the assumption that such a guarantee would stabilize it.

"The petitioner knew the bourse is a risky instrument, where share values can be expected to both rise and fall in the course of ordinary trading, and which is influenced by many factors," the petition said. "But in light of [Rabin's] promise, it was clear to him that at least... falls would not be caused by [a tax]. In fact, however, there were drastic declines in share prices after the tax was announced."

According to High Court precedent, the petition argued, the government is obligated to keep promises, as long as it had the authority to make such promises in the first place, and if they were intended to be binding and accepted as such by the other party. This is the case with Rabin's June announcement, the petition said.

The tax "causes clear and concrete damage to the principle of the rule of law and the public's trust in the government," it said. The second petition, asking that the bourse be temporarily closed down, was filed by Simha Mor of Yavne, who retired from the army in 1991 and invested his entire retirement grant - worth some NIS 400,000 prior to Sunday's trading - in the stock exchange.

The petition charged that because the Treasury gave the public partial and contradictory information about its plans to tax the market, the public was unable to assess the impact of the change, with serious consequences to the petitioner and other investors.

Gali Lipkis Beck and Jose Rosenfeld also contributed to this report.

'No chance Rabin will fire Shohat'

Netanyahu: Likud will cancel capital gains tax if it returns to power

AGAINST the background of yesterday's 2.25 percent gain in the Two-Sided Index, aides in the Prime Minister's Office say it is "inconceivable" that Rabin will fire Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, nor did he ever consider the possibility.

"Rabin has the utmost respect for Shohat," said a senior aide to Prime Minister Rabin. "and even if he is somewhat critical of the capital gains tax plan, being half-baked, the firing of Shohat not only was never considered but would also send all the wrong and possibly devastating messages to a volatile financial market."

He added that differences of opinion over economic policies may have characterized the Rabin-Shohat relationship ever since the government was established, but Rabin never considered firing Shohat or asking him to leave. Rabin also lashes out at Treasury officials periodically, said the aide, "but that has no bearing on the respect he has for Shohat, a longtime political ally."

Another aide said that Rabin is mostly concerned with the apparent credibility problem

ALON PINKAS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

which emerged in the wake of the tax decision, after Rabin earlier in his tenure vowed not to impose such a capital gains tax "as long as I am prime minister."

The prime minister knows all too well that decisions of this sort require more integrity on the merits of the issue itself than on previous promises, but he is nevertheless bothered by an appearance of a crack in his credibility, said the aide.

Meanwhile, Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu announced yesterday that the Likud will cancel the stock exchange tax entirely if and when it comes to power.

Netanyahu demanded that the government take immediate steps to cancel "this confused, harmful package of taxes," and suggested that if Rabin feels that he must impose a tax on the stock exchange, "then only a turnover tax of up to 1 percent: a simple, effective tax which is easy to calculate and levy, and which will bring in much more than the unintelligible package proposed by the prime minister."

The Likud has called an urgent convention of the Knesset during the summer recess to discuss what party leaders called the government's "irresponsible economic zig-zag policy, which is rocking the economy every Monday and Thursday."

Netanyahu said that "hurting the economy to and fro reflects the public's lack of confidence in the government, and no wonder. The prime minister has proved that he is not to be believed. A few months ago he said that he would never impose a tax on the stock exchange, and now there is one."

First he said the tax would apply only to profits, and then he decided to include losses as well. And now it appears that the Treasury officials don't even know how to calculate this tax.

"When Rabin heard that the new tax would contribute nothing to reducing inflation - the reason he first agreed to it - he tried to cut himself off from it and throw the whole caboodle onto the finance minister. This entire tax package should be withdrawn and canceled."

Bethlehem to have Palestinian Christmas

HAIM SHAPIRO

IT'S going to be a Palestinian Christmas in Bethlehem this year, according to Mayor Elias Freij and Tourism Minister Uzi Baram.

The two met yesterday at the Bethlehem office of Freij, who is also tourism minister for the Palestinian Authority.

Following the meeting, Baram said the Palestinians would take charge of the ceremonies and organize the Christmas festivities in Manger Square this year.

"Christmas this year will be under the supervision of the Palestinians," Baram said to reporters following the meeting.

As the two prepared to visit the Church of the Nativity, the birthplace of Jesus, Freij said he would like to celebrate Christmas this year under the flag of peace.

"I am thinking about inviting world leaders [for the holiday]," Freij said.

However, Yisrael Teir-Cohen, the officer in charge of tourism for the civil administration, said any agreement regarding Christmas would not affect the status quo for

the holy places.

Thus, he said, even if the Palestinians were to be in charge of organizing the Christmas celebrations, it would probably be the Israeli military governor of Bethlehem who greets the heads of the Christian churches, when their processions arrive in Manger Square.

Freij said he did not yet have specific plans for any changes that might be made in the celebrations. But he did say he expects a large influx of visitors from Arab and Moslem countries in the future as a result of peace in the area.

During the meeting, which included the participation of Tourism Ministry director-general Eli Gonen and senior Tourism Ministry and Palestinian officials, practical aspects were discussed of implementing the early empowerment for tourism, agreed upon in Cairo on August 9.

Baram said responsibility would be transferred to the Palestinians before this Christmas.

He added that the ministry would develop joint marketing programs with the Palestinians for the holiday.

The two also discussed the possibility of joint development of a hotel complex for the northern Dead Sea area.

They also decided to set up a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee to consider a mutual master plan for tourism infrastructure in the autonomous areas.

Freij said some 3,000 hotel rooms should be built in the area by the year 2000. He said he feared the Palestinians might not have sufficient resources to provide the same incentives for tourism investors that were provided by Israel and asked for help.

Baram said he could not provide loans, but Israel would be willing to help set up the infrastructure and provide joint marketing abroad for sites in Israel

and the autonomous area.

Baram also said tourism was the key to peace in the area. If there were hotels and work places, he said, there would be no return of the intifada.

Following the meeting, the two went to the Church of the Nativity, where Archbishop Theophanes showed them its ancient mosaic floor and took them to the crypt, where a silver star marks the birthplace of Jesus.

After taking Baram and Freij through the crypt, the Armenian chapel and the Latin cloister, Theophanes said he hoped the atmosphere this coming Christmas would be one of peace.

"It is very good and important to see brothers come together in this holy place," he said.

He added that he hoped this Christmas there would be a more relaxed atmosphere, with less emphasis on security considerations.

Germany won't isolate Iran despite Peres plea

ALON PINKAS

FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres yesterday asked German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel to isolate Iran and curtail expanding commercial relations with it.

However, he received a reluctant response. In Bonn, Peres and Kinkel discussed Iran's complicity in terrorism, including its alleged involvement in the bombing at the Buenos Aires Jewish community center.

Peres said Germany, in the process of expanding its ties with Iran in the last two years, should contribute to Israel's efforts to isolate Tehran.

But Kinkel declined Germany's business, trade, and cultural contacts with Iran.

"We believe a critical dialogue with Iran is the correct policy to prevent that country, which is important in the region, from being pushed into a corner."

In Copenhagen, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin met with Danish Foreign Minister Holweg Patterson and criticized several European countries, including Denmark, for maintaining a dialogue with Iran.



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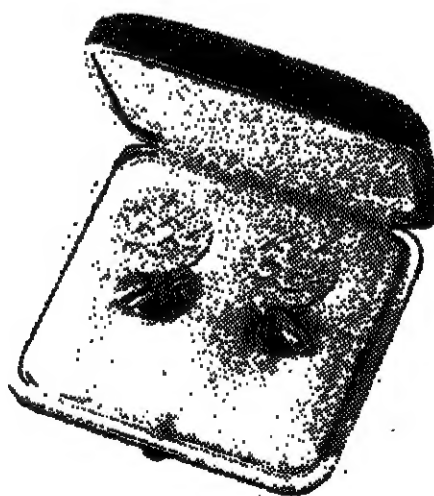
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12 Islamic activists held
SECURITY forces early yesterday arrested 12 Islamic activists in the villages of Zuhra and Kabuliyah near Jenin. Military sources said last night. None of the 12 was a fugitive, but were brought in for questioning in connection with Islamic Jihad and Hamas activities.

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Death threats haunt Ramallah woman opposed to Palestinian Authority

WHEN Maha Nasser opened the front door of her Ramallah home last Friday, she found a blood-soaked sheet on her doorstep. The day before she received telephoned death threats against her family. That evening people tried to force their way into her home.

Collaborator? Prostitute? Drug user? Maha Nasser is a high-school physics teacher in Ramallah and chairwoman of the Palestinian Women's General Union (PWGU), affiliated with the opposition Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

Her offense is that she wants to keep the Palestinian Authority at bay. As "early empowerment" in edu-

cation, health, tourism, social welfare, and taxation starts spreading to areas outside Gaza and Jericho next month, this may be hard to do, as the Palestinian Authority will naturally try to extend its control.

But in towns like Ramallah, where left-wing opposition groups are strong and the IDF will remain deployed for some months, the PA will not initially have the same authority to impose its will as it now has in Gaza and Jericho.

On August 15, Nasser, expressing her opposition to the Palestinian Authority, opposed inviting PA Minister for Social Welfare Intisar Wazir to address a conference of the PGWU unless she came as a private citizen.

JON IMMANUEL

On August 17, Nasser began receiving the death threats from callers who said she must agree that Wazir open the conference on women and family development "by the power of the Authority," or they would kill her and her family. They identified themselves as "the Abu Jihad" group. Wazir, also known as Um Jihad, was wife of the assassinated PLO military commander Khalil Wazir, whose nom de guerre was Abu Jihad.

Nasser does not accuse Arafat or Um Jihad herself of being behind the death threats, but she believes they should protect her against them. Al-

though she has sent letters to Um Jihad, the media, and human rights groups complaining of the threats, she has not contacted Hanan Ashrawi's Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, which she sees as a PA organ.

Her opposition to Um Jihad is not personal. "I think very highly of her and she knows me very well. But this government does not have a national consensus. I do not recognize the Palestinian government," she says.

The fact that death threats and ostracism is the language of debate in a women's group discussing an invitation to the only woman represented on the Palestinian Authority may be indicative of even greater hostility to

come.

"We don't want to become like any Third World country in which the government takes over every group. Fatah is trying to kidnap the idea of the non-governmental organization (NGO)," said human rights lawyer Samir Abu Shakra in defense of Nasser's position.

Last week alarm bells rang in the Palestinian NGOs, including human rights groups, when a long article appeared in *Al-Quds* questioning whether NGOs should continue to exist. *Al-Quds* itself is now considered a Fatah mouthpiece, the only Palestinian daily newspaper following Arafat's suspension of the pro-Jordanian *Al-Nahar*.

Funds freed for Jericho bypass road

HERB KEINON

THE government yesterday released NIS 16 million for construction of the Jericho bypass road, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told Jordan Valley settlement leaders.

The settlement leaders, including David Elhayani, head of the Jordan Valley Settlers' Committee, and Haim Aviv, head of the Ma'ale Efrayim Local Council, met with the prime minister in the hopes of convincing him not to extend early empowerment to Palestinians living in the Jordan Valley.

According to Elhayani, early empowerment would give Palestinians a "foothold" in the Jordan Valley, which he said goes against the government's declarations that the valley should be classified a security zone area where autonomy would not be extended. Elhayani and other settlement leaders want to contain autonomy in the Jordan Valley to Jericho and Oujah.

Elhayani said Rabin rejected this argument, claiming that early empowerment in the Jordan Valley does not weaken Israel's claim there. Elhayani said Rabin also argued that there is no reason why Israel should control issues such as education for Palestinians.

One of the purposes of the meeting, according to Elhayani, was to protest against Jericho turning into a "city of refuge" for freed Palestinian prisoners. He said, however, that the construction of a bypass road will make the sending of freed Palestinian prisoners to Jericho less of an issue, since Jordan Valley residents will no longer have to travel through Jericho.

According to Elhayani, the bypass road will run close to the existing security road—a narrow, bumpy road being used temporarily by Israelis who want to avoid traveling through Jericho. Elhayani said the settlement leaders were told yesterday that the bypass road will take some seven months to build.

Rabin also said at the meeting that NIS 3 million has been released to assist the financially strapped settlement of Na'ama, located between Jericho and Oujah, which was hit hard by both an unusually hot year as well as financial hardships due to autonomy in neighboring Jericho. Another NIS 5.6 million will be loaned to Jordan Valley farmers also hit hard by the difficult agricultural year.

Jordan Valley settlement leaders see these moves as an indication of the prime minister's intention to keep the Jordan Valley under Israeli control.

Elhayani said that it took two weeks to set up yesterday's meeting with Rabin, and that the mood of the meeting was friendly. Although Rabin meets upon occasion with Jordan Valley settlement leaders, he rarely meets with settlement leaders from other regions in Judea and Samaria.



Tourism Minister Uzi Baram and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij meet in Bethlehem yesterday to discuss transferring responsibility for this year's Christmas celebrations in the town to the Palestinians. (Isaac Harari)

Tibi says Rabin treats Arafat as his enemy

CASABLANCA (Reuters) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin still treats PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat as an enemy instead of a partner, Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi said yesterday.

"The head of the Israeli government continues to behave with Mr. Yasser Arafat as if he were an enemy and not as a partner in a political operation," said Tibi, in Morocco leading a PLO delegation for talks with Israeli officials.

The two sides, meeting in Casablanca since last Tuesday, moved yesterday to the southern city of Marrakesh to continue talks on Jewish settlements and the future status of Jerusalem.

"Rabin's behavior has negative effects on the atmosphere surrounding the peace operation and the chances of success," Tibi told Reuters.

Tibi hailed the behind-the-scenes role played by King Hassan of Morocco in promoting contacts between Israel and the PLO.

He said the king was "a pioneer of political nationalism in the region and has an important role to play in the next stages of the peace process."

The king has delegated his financial adviser Andre Azoulay, a Moroccan Jew and former journalist and banker, to attend the talks which are a sequel to similar exchanges of views between the two sides held in Vienna.

Arab council heads adamant about holding mass protest in Haifa tonight

DAVID RUDGE

ARAB local council leaders yesterday rejected a compromise proposal aimed at resolving the financial plight of their local authorities and ending their more than five-week-old strike.

"The protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office will remain and we intend to go ahead with a mass demonstration in Haifa tonight unless we receive a positive response to our demands," said Hussein Suleiman, spokesman for the forum of Arab Council Heads.

Nevertheless, there were signs last night that a solution to the problem might be in the offing, following the intervention of Union of Local Authorities chairman Adi Eldar.

Suleiman said Eldar met with representatives of the striking Arab council leaders yesterday and put forward a compromise proposal approved by the Treasury.

"We agreed to the proposal that the NIS 150 million in additional funding already offered by the government be spread over three years, instead of two as we had requested," said Suleiman, head of Mash'had local council in the Galilee.

"But we rejected the proposal to help cover our deficits, which amount to NIS 200 million for all the 53

councils, by diverting money from development budgets.

"We insisted that the government help cover two thirds of the debts by grants and approved loans, with the remainder coming from municipal taxes. We also demanded a timetable for a judicial commission to investigate budgetary discrimination against the Arab councils and a guarantee that its findings will be implemented by all sides."

Suleiman said they expected an answer to their counter proposals today. If no positive reply was received, however, the protest measures would continue as planned, he said.

Court overturns conviction of Kiryat Arba man

EVELYN GORDON

THE Supreme Court yesterday overturned the conviction of a Kiryat Arba resident accused of willfully endangering life by shooting at a vehicle.

Kessar Mendes was found guilty by the Jerusalem District Court of illegal possession of firearms, willfully endangering human life and attacking a policeman. He was sentenced to 21 months in prison and 21 months suspended and ordered to pay the policeman NIS 12,000.

All the charges related to an incident which occurred on Shabbat morning, December 4, 1993, while Mendes, his mother and some friends were walking from their houses to pray at the Machpela Cave.

As they passed a stopped car driv-

en by a Palestinian, an unknown person fired at the car, hitting one of the passengers in the head. The passenger later died of his wounds.

When the shots were heard, a group of border policemen rushed to the site, and an argument broke out between Mendes and their officer, Ziad Hassan, after Mendes refused to identify himself.

In the course of the fight, Mendes struck Hassan and broke his jaw. Mendes, supported by his mother and another Kiryat Arba resident, later denied in court that he had been carrying a rifle, or any weapon, that morning. He also denied injuring Hassan.

In both cases, Jerusalem District Court Judge Zvi Cohen found the testimony of the five policemen more believable. Although there were no reliable witnesses Cohen convicted Mendes of the shooting on the basis of other evidence.

However, Justices Ya'akov Kedmi, Dov Levine and Zvi Tal said this was insufficient for a criminal conviction. No evidence linked the powder stains on Mendes' shirt to the shots in question, they said. Thus the case against Mendes lacks any "primary evidence."

They therefore overturned the conviction and consequently reduced his sentence to 11 months in prison and 11 months suspended.

PLO officials deny charter link to recognition

CAIRO (Reuters) — Palestinian officials denied yesterday that Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction was seeking Israeli recognition of a Palestinian state before the PLO purges its charter of clauses denying Israel's right to exist.

"There has been no such decision," chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

A member of Fatah's central committee, Sakhr Abu Nazer, said on Sunday the decision to link the two issues had been taken on Saturday night at a meeting in Tunis chaired by Arafat.

Arafat, whose Fatah faction is the largest inside the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), undertook in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at the time of last year's self-rule deal to amend those articles of the charter denying Israel's right to exist.

"Let me be very clear. There has been absolutely no decision taken by Fatah or by the PLO leadership to take any new precondition," Shaath told reporters in Cairo.

In Jerusalem, leading PLO official Faisal al-Husseini said no such decision had been taken by Fatah but he added such a move could not be ruled out in the future.

'Palestinians to buy oil from Iraq'

The Palestinians are negotiating a deal with Iraq to purchase oil at discount prices despite the UN embargo on Baghdad, a Kuwaiti newspaper reported on Monday.

The *Al-Siyassah* daily quoted a source close to the economic negotiations with Iraq as saying the Palestinian Authority wants to buy 25,000 barrels a day from Iraq.

NEWSLINE

with URI LUBRANI

Uri Lubrani, government coordinator on Lebanon, was interviewed on his return from a visit to the security zone yesterday.

What was the purpose of your visit? I went to convey my condolences to families of the three Druze inhabitants of Hatzbiyeh and Shwaya villages who were killed in an Hizbullah attack in the security zone last week. I met with the families and residents of the villages.

Did the residents ask you any questions about progress in the peace process, especially on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks?

They were keenly interested about what I thought about the peace process, and I said that to my mind there might be progress on the Lebanese front in a matter of weeks, in the wake of progress on the Syrian track. I didn't say how many weeks.

That sounds relatively optimistic.

I think that the Syrians and the Lebanese would not want to be left behind too much while meaningful progress is taking place on other tracks.

Is that the only cause for your optimism?

I am an optimistic person by nature. My gut feeling in this case, however, is not an entirely unrelated feeling. This feeling is a composition of experience and reading between the lines.

Did you notice any concern among members of the South Lebanese Army or residents of the security zone over their future in light of the peace process?

There was some concern some months ago, but I didn't really sense anything of that sort during my present visit. I found that the people are determined to continue getting themselves involved in the confrontation with Hizbullah. They also know we mean it when we say that we will not redeploy unless we are absolutely convinced that all terrorist military capability, be it that of Hizbullah or that of the other rejectionist organizations, will be completely dismantled.

Does this reassure SLA members and residents of the zone who have been cooperating with Israel?

This gives them the assurance that we have their interests at heart. There is also another pre-condition for any move on our part: that members of the SLA and the various civilian agencies, such as those in schools or hospitals, will not be punished or molested in any way because of their cooperation with us. This is a firm commitment on our part to the SLA and residents of the zone.

Did you discern any lowering of morale among SLA troops in the zone against the background of the peace process?

I haven't found any lack of morale, although of course people are interested to know what's likely to happen and when.

Has Hizbullah increased its operations against IDF and SLA targets in the zone recently?

There are ups and downs in Hizbullah activities and we are now in an upsurge.

Do you feel that the Lebanese army, with the backing of the Syrians, would be capable, in the event of any future peace treaty, of dismantling Hizbullah and keeping the fundamentalist organization under control?

I have all the reasons to believe that they are perfectly capable of doing so.

David Rudge

NEWS IN BRIEF

Woman, 55, drowns in Dead Sea

Zahari Sahivan, 55, a resident of Rahat, drowned yesterday in the Dead Sea off a beach where swimming is prohibited.

Her daughter tried to save her and also began to drown, before being pulled from the water. The daughter was brought by helicopter to Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section.

The accident occurred in the afternoon when the family was on a day trip to the area.

Laotian FM to visit Israel

The foreign minister of Laos, Somsavat Lengsavat, will arrive here tomorrow for a five-day working visit as the guest of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

Olmert to launch food bag campaign today

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert will kick off the annual Rosh Hashanah gift food bag campaign for the elderly this afternoon, when he appears at the Superol supermarket on Agon Street at 5:00 p.m.

The food drive is organized by Amit, the Jerusalem Volunteer Association for the Elderly, and is helped by free ad space donated by the *Jerusalem Post's* Forget Me Not Fund and *Me'ariv*. The public is encouraged to buy bags of food prepared at cost by Superol and Hyperol supermarkets.

Transportation accord signed with Slovakia

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessir signed an air transportation agreement with Slovakia yesterday, the ministry announced. Foreign Minister Eduard Kukan signed for the Slovak government.

The agreement will make it possible to have regularly scheduled flights between Tel Aviv and Bratislava, instead of the charter flights which existed until now.

Kessir is due to continue to Germany today, where he is to meet with officials of the Daimler-Benz concern.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, king of hearts, seven of diamonds and queen of clubs.

Hizbullah claims responsibility for attack on IDF position

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH claimed responsibility yesterday for the mortar attack on an IDF position along the Israel/Lebanon border on Sunday in which an IDF soldier was lightly wounded.

But Hizbullah, in a statement that was carried by Lebanese newspapers, denied it had fired into Israeli territory.

The statement said Hizbullah was not afraid to confront the "Zionist

enemy" anywhere, but said its fighters had not shelled any targets in Israel itself.

Hizbullah continued its recent wave of attacks by firing several mortar rounds toward an IDF post in the Ashbiyah region, in the eastern sector of the security zone yesterday.

There were no casualties, and IDF gunners returned fire in what was the only reported incident yesterday.

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on the death of his

Mother מרת

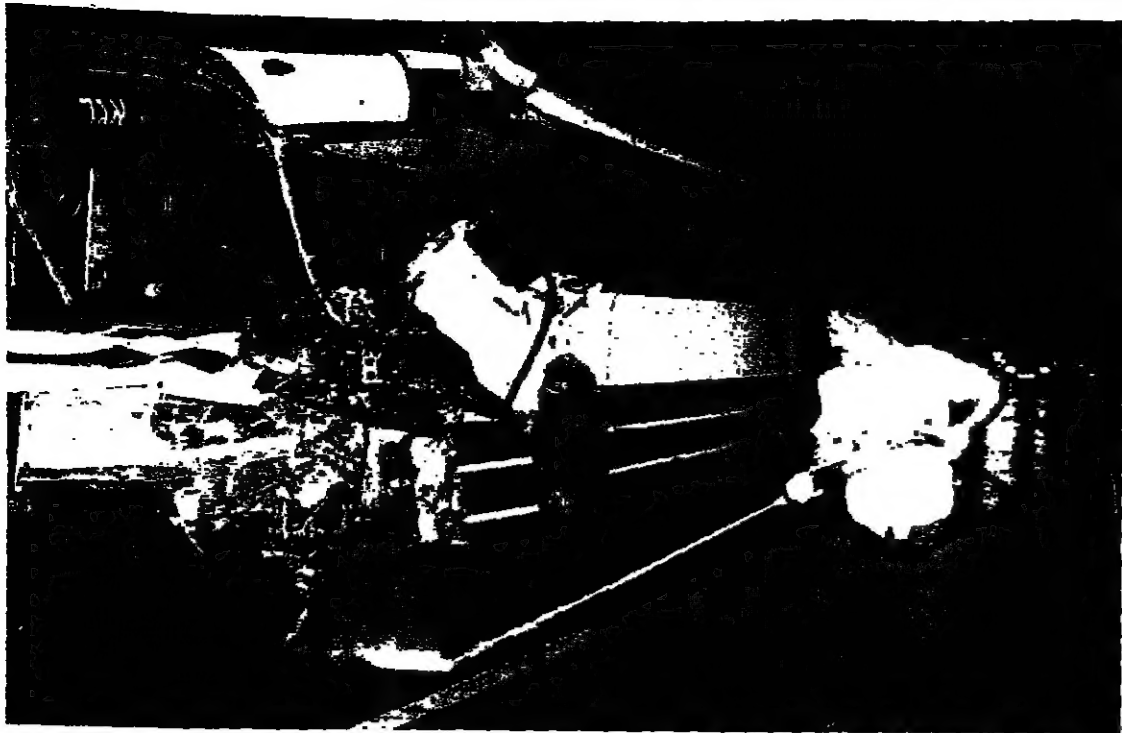
Don Edelman, Yosef Kedem
and the entire staff

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We mourn with our friend
Dr. Shmuel Rosenman the death of his

Mother מרת

המקום ירחם אתכם בתוך שער אבינו ציון וירושלים
ולא תזכירו לאבאנו עוד

American Zionist Youth Foundation
Central Agencies of Jewish Education
Youth Movements and Organization



Firemen hose down the Egged 415 bus Monday night, after it crashed into a tractor doing road work on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. The final toll was 35 people injured. (Stein/Haran)

Bill spells out civil sanctions for men who refuse to divorce

EVELYN GORDON

RABBINICAL courts would have broad powers to impose sanctions on men who refuse to give their wives a get, according to a bill discussed in a special session of the Knesset Law Committee yesterday.

The bill was prepared by the Justice and Religious Affairs ministries, with the rabbinical courts' approval. It received support from across the political spectrum in the committee, with even those MKs who said it did not go far enough agreeing that it was a good start.

Under current law, a man can be imprisoned if the rabbinical courts rule that under Halacha he should be forced to give a get. However, there are no penalties for men who fall into milder categories of Halacha, such as those who only should give a get, or

men who are obligated to give a get but can't be forced to do so.

According to Halacha, however, men who fall into these milder categories can be essentially cut off from the normal life of society. The proposed bill is meant to implement such excommunication.

The bill states that if a rabbinical court rules that a man falls into any of the above categories, it may forbid him to do any or all of the following—leave the country; obtain a passport, visa, driver's license or credit card; open a bank account or write checks; obtain any job in the civil service, army, police, local authorities or any other public body; or work in any

profession requiring a government license, such as law or medicine.

The sanctions, which can be imposed 30 days after the court has issued its ruling, will remain in effect at the court's discretion, but will end automatically if the man does give his wife the get. If the man appeals the ruling, the court may, but does not have to, decide to delay implementation of the sanctions.

The bill also gives rabbinical courts the right to impose alimony payments on the man, in addition to child-support payments, until he agrees to give the get.

Additionally, it states that the same sanctions can be imposed on a man

who refuses to perform the haliza ceremony for his brother's widow, thereby freeing her to marry again.

Finally, the bill would make existing legal sanctions more stringent. It states that if the rabbinical courts rule a man should be forced to give a get, he can be imprisoned 30 days after the last appeal has ended, instead of only six months after this date.

It allows a man whom the courts have ruled should be forced to give haliza to be imprisoned 30 days after the last appeal is decided as well, instead of the current three months. Law committee chairman Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said he would try to get the bill through the committee as quickly as possible, given the public's unhappiness with the present system.

Goldman would end parents' school guard payments

PARENTS of schoolchildren will no longer have to pay for guard duty if the cabinet accepts a proposal by Deputy Education Minister Micha Goldman.

Goldman said yesterday he would meet today with the representatives of the local councils to finalize details of the plan and then bring it before the cabinet tomorrow.

"We plan to train the guards employed by the ministry in conjunction with the police and use them more effectively so that the 25% of the budget covered by the parents will no longer be needed," Goldman said.

Union of Local Authorities head Adi Eldar, who had earlier warned that there would be no guard duty at the schools unless the government kept its promise

to take over the issue, said last night that the councils would participate in 20% of the guard-duty budget, amounting to NIS 24m. "What we are not prepared to do is to cover the parents' share of the expenses," Eldar said.

The local councils took over responsibility for guard duty at schools on an emergency basis last year following the tensions in the wake of the Hebron massacre.

Ethiopian immigrants may divorce in any rabbinical court

EVELYN GORDON

ETHIOPIAN immigrants will from now on be able to get divorced in any regional rabbinical court, instead of having to go to a special court in Jerusalem, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

It was responding to a petition by the Movement for Ethiopian Jewry, which had charged that the special court was both discriminatory and inconvenient, since it forced Ethiopi-

ans from all over the country to travel to Jerusalem if they wanted a divorce. The petition was slated to be heard later this week.

In its response, the state said it originally established the special court because most rabbinical court judges lacked "the experience and

knowledge necessary to deal with the special problems of the Ethiopian community."

In March, because of the petition, it agreed as an interim measure to increase the number of courts authorized to deal with the issue. However, this solution did not satisfy the petitioners.

Yesterday, the state said it has decided to abolish the special court altogether, and to allow all regional rabbinical courts to grant divorces to Ethiopians.

"Recently, a significant number of the rabbinical court judges have acquired the experience and knowledge necessary to deal with the special problems of the Ethiopian community," the response stated.

Rubinstein: Schools need to be warmer to new immigrants

BATSHEVA TSUR

EDUCATION Minister Amnon Rubinstein yesterday called on teachers and pupils alike to change their attitude towards immigrant youth and extend them a warmer welcome.

The minister's appeal came following a meeting with immigrant youth in distress at Jerusalem's International Cultural Center for Youth.

In reply to a question from Rubinstein, only one of the two dozen youth present replied that she had been to the home of a native Israeli. Another youth, describing typical problems among his immigrant peers, told Rubinstein and Deputy Minister Micha Goldman that he had arrived in the country two years ago at the age of 16. "I came with my mother and sister," said "A," and went by myself from school to school, trying to find somewhere to study. Meanwhile, I began working in the market to help support the family. After a year, I was accepted to a school in Beit Lid. Now I have to go to the army and I'm not finished studying."

The youngster said his sister had enrolled in a religious school in Netanya but left because she was "different" from the other girls.

"The teachers and pupils couldn't

less care about us," said "I," who arrived here from Belarus at the age of 15. "I couldn't become part of the hevre in the class and eventually dropped out. Now I'd like to become

a hairdresser."

Speaking later to some 50 veteran immigrants who are serving as counselors for the distressed youth, Rubinstein said they were "at the center of a very narrow bridge, leading from distress to hope. The problems of aliya are extremely difficult—changes of language and culture, economic and family problems—and some teenagers can't cope. You have made excellent inroads," he told the counselors.

During the upcoming school year, there will be 49 support groups in 33 localities to deal with 2,000 distressed immigrant youth, Rubinstein said. Two years ago, he said, only 500 youth had received help.

But Zionist Forum head Natan Sharansky said the ministry was not doing enough. Some 20 percent—5,000 youngsters aged 15-18—are defined as being in distress, Sharansky said, basing the estimate on figures given to the aliya cabinet.

Quoting a study carried out by the

Hebrew University's education department, Sharansky said half the youth felt cut off by their veteran peers and two-thirds felt ignored by their teachers. He added that there was a problem of violence against olim in elementary schools.

"In such severe crisis, it is not surprising that they take the road of no return," Sharansky said.

A growing addiction among children – TV

Bar-Ilan researcher says kids' conversation, attention span affected

LIAT COLLINS

PARENTS whose children don't smoke, drink or take drugs might still have young addictions on their hands: Tele-addictions. These are the children who give up on everything from friends and food to sleep—and there numbers are growing according to a Bar-Ilan University researcher.

Dr. Raphael Schneller, a senior lecturer and the head of BIU's School of Education's communications department, used the research he carried out on 1,000 youths and 500 adults during the television strike of the late 1980s as the basis of a revised paper which appeared in the university's magazine this week.

During the initial research, he asked interviewees how much time they spent on 29 different activities during and before the television strike, which occurred when Israelis had access to only one station.

From the results, Schneller deduced that television is having more serious effects on the country's youth than previously thought.

"The growing addiction to television has serious implications on the youth's health, education, social development and culture," Schneller said in an interview yesterday.

"They are cut off from reality and don't know the real world. Everything is imaginary and unusual. Normal terms of reference don't exist for them. They don't meet real-life characters and they cannot hold a normal conversation as they have become used to only hearing—not listening or talking—but hearing."

"The longest conversation with their friends might be 'pass the penums.'"

Schneller, and other researchers, also claim the attention span of youths is reduced to the 10- to 15-

minute time span between commercial breaks.

Although theoretically the increased number of channels gives the viewer greater choice of viewing material, Schneller found in his recent research that addictions are more likely to lock in on a specific channel and ignore the other possibilities.

"I'm not against television, on the contrary. But instead of widening horizons it has started limiting them with youths just watching the same sports or music station and not learning anything new," he said.

He also talked of the "triple-parent family": the mother, the father "and the television which acts as an electronic babysitter."

Even the haredi sector has not been entirely spared the phenomenon, he said. "Although it is far from the proportions found in secular society, the idea of watching programs infiltrated via the video. To begin with it was only used to record weddings but now it has increased to include other films and programs, to an extent where there has been a backlash against the video again," he said.

Haredi, and religious youth, however, tend to watch television less because of the number of hours they spend studying compared to secular youth. "On the whole, the religious youth watch less, and certainly the haredi youth do, but in development towns the phenomenon has started reaching worrying proportions among religious children too."

"It's very worrying. The country's youth are turning into couch potatoes cooped up in small rooms. It's a far cry from the day's of youth clubs, sports, activities and friendships based on shared experiences not shared programs."

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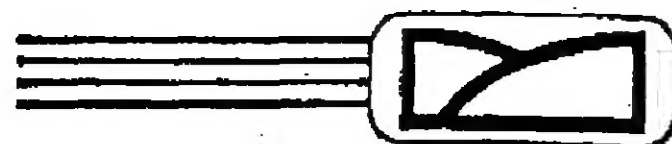
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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Jerusalem District Lease offered on plot for construction of one semi-detached housing unit, Eshkol Paz, Ashkelon - Invitation to Tender 177/94/Yod Mem

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for a plot, the details of which are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Approx. Area, sq.m.	Total Area for Registration, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Costs, NIS
1958	9, 41	Bat122	422	232	102,234	34,142

* Urban Building Plan 10/101/02/4 shows that one semi-detached housing unit may be built on the plot, with a maximum area for registration of 211 sq.m.; in addition, 21 sq.m. of auxiliary construction may be erected.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay the above development costs to Ashkelon Municipality, for development already carried out. This amount is linked to the index of road surfacing for June 1984 (published on July 15, 1994). These costs will be paid, on the basis of the last known index figure.

† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 22, 1994, against payment of NIS100 cash at the Israel Lands Administration, 34 Rehov Ben Yehuda, Jerusalem (12th floor), ☎ 02-254121, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 27, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Northern Region Lease offered on Plot No. 5 for construction of Baths in Roman style, Beit Shean - Invitation to Tender 237/94/Tzadeh

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 3 year development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Plot Area, sq.m.	Area for Registration, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS	Development Costs, NIS
22874	29-30 35	5	5,000	5,000	528,945	855,466

* According to Urban Building Plan 7306/Gimmel, 3-story Roman style baths may be built on the plot, with a total building percentage of 100 of the net area of the plot. The maximum building percentage for the ground floor is 60, but it should not be less than 40. The building percentage includes the service area and the main area, but does not include the parking area and covered and open balconies.

The successful bidder will comply with the special architectural instructions, contained in the urban building plan.

The entrepreneur awarded the tender must undertake to plan and execute the project, in close cooperation with the designer appointed by Beit Shean Economic Development Corp. Ltd. and the Local Planning and Building Committee.

** Bids should be for the land, not including the above development costs, which will be paid directly to Beit Shean Economic Development Corp., which is carrying out the development. These costs are linked to the index of building inputs for June 1984 (published on July 15, 1994). The plot is located on an antiquities site, and the entrepreneur awarded the tender must undertake to bear the cost of archaeological inspections, if such are demanded by the Antiquities Authority.

† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 22, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Northern District, Government Compound, Upper Nazareth, Tel. 06-558211, on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (no reception hours Tuesday).

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Haifa Region Lease offered on a plot for construction of 2 two-family houses, Rehov Hashahed, Brandels Quarter, Hadera - Invitation to Tender 222/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 3 year development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for the following plot:

Block	Parcel	Plot Area, sq.m.	Area for Registration, sq.m.	No. of houses	Minimum Price, NIS
10040	68	576	390	2	194,218

* Urban Building Plan 811/Het Dalet shows that two housing units of 2 floors may be built, using 40% of the plot. The ground floor may be 30%. The given building area does not include a shelter and separate auxiliary construction of 25%.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay development costs to the local council, in the form of fees and licenses, in accordance with the local bylaws.

† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 22, 1994, against payment of NIS100 cash (including VAT) at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech HaTzemaout, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Haifa Region Bids are invited for a 2 Year Lease on an open car park at Kiryat Ata Junction - Invitation to Tender 239/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a two-year agreement for the operation of a public car park.

Block	Parcel	Area, sq.m.	Minimum price, NIS for two-year use†
11548	38	2,192	40,999

* Although the lease is for 24 months, the minimum price is based on a period of use of 21 months. This will allow the successful bidder a period of 3 months, in which to obtain licenses, prepare the lot, etc.

No construction will be allowed on the plot.
The right is reserved to accept any bid, or to reject all bids.

The tender booklet will be available from August 22, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech HaTzemaout, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours, but the office is closed on Fridays and the eve of festivals.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Central Region Lease offered on plot for construction of two housing units, Sha'ariya, Petah Tikva - Invitation to Tender 243/94/Mem

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year development agreement, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for a plot, the details of which are:

Urban Building Plan	Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Total approx. Plot area, sq.m.	Total Building percentage	Minimum Price, NIS
2/1154 Pal Tav 2000/Pal Tav 2/2000 Pal Tav 3/1002 Pal Tav	4042	40	Bat404	411	60	249,553

* The urban building plan shows that the plot is in a Residential Alef area, and that two semi-detached housing units may be built, 30% per floor on two floors, plus 10% for an attic + a 50 sq.m. basement + a 15 sq.m. car port.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay development costs, in accordance with the local bylaws.

† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet is available against payment of NIS100 including VAT (check) at the Israel Lands Administration, 88 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638383, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Haifa Region Lease offered on Plot No. 28 for construction of one single-family house, South-East Atlit - Invitation to Tender 249/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 3 year development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for the following plot:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plot	Approx. plot area, sq.m.	Construction area, sq.m.	Minimum Price, NIS†
10582	180	28	603	211	129,303

* Urban Building Plan 807/Gimmel (Het Kat-136) shows that the plot is intended for the construction of one housing unit for a single-family house, with a maximum ground floor area of 25%, total on two floors - 35%.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay fee and dues, in accordance with the local bylaws.

† Not including VAT.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 25, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Office Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech HaTzemaout, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - HAIFA MUNICIPALITY Lease offered on 2 plots for construction of 80 housing units, St. Luke's, Haifa - Invitation to Tender 249/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 2 year development agreements, after which those concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for the following plot:

Urban Building Plan	Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Total approx. plot area, sq.m.	Area for construction, sq.m.
1942/Het Pal	10750	33	2003, 2004	6,940	6,400

* Urban Building Plan 1942/Het Pal shows Plot 2003 has an area for construction of 3,200 sq.m. in 5 floors over a foundation floor.

Up to 10% of the permitted gross construction area may be transferred between Plots 2003 and 2004, on condition that no more than the permitted number of floors are built.

The construction is to be carried out, in accordance with a plan drawn up for both plots; this plan must receive the approval of the city engineer.

A deposit must be made at the Lands Registry, indicating that there is access from both plots to a joint parking lot, on the boundary between the two plots. This parking lot is to extend 8 m. on both sides. This is to be done before a building license is issued.

In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will:

a. Pay fees and levies to the local authority, in accordance with the bylaws of Haifa Municipality.

b. Develop open public areas Alef, Bet and Gimmel, and lay down a path, as required by the Municipality, as detailed in the tender documents.

The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 25, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Office Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech HaTzemaout, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours. On Friday and the eve of festivals, the office is closed.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

The successful bidder will be entitled to receive an accelerated building program incentive, on the conditions set out in the tender documents.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Jerusalem District Lease offered on 6 lots for construction of 500 housing units + 500 sq.m. of commercial space, at Gillo Hel/4, Jerusalem - Invitation to Tender 251/94/Yod Mem

Bids are invited from those interested in signing 22 month development agreements, after which the party concerned will sign a 49 year lease with an option to extend for another 49 years, for land, the details of which are given below.

200	203, 204, 205 206, 209	10,721	8,500	74	5,032,442
300	301, 302, 306 307, 308, 309 310, 311, 312 313, 314	7,726	11,000	110	5,544,688
400	402, 403, 405 408, 409, 410	9,198	8,000	70	4,618,468
500	501, 502, 503 510, 511, 512	10,371	8,700	73	5,205,704
600	602, 603, 604 605, 606, 607 609, 610, 611 612	15,575	11,700	99	7,882,387
601 Commercial		544	500		

† Not including VAT.
Urban Building Plan 4309 shows that the construction areas detailed above are main areas only. Service areas will be calculated at the time building permits are requested, on the basis of the outline master plan (Calculation of Areas and Building Percentages in Plans and in Permits) Amendment to Planning and Building Law, 23.2.82.

The following are eligible to bid:
1. A company or person, registered in the Contractors Register under Building, Main Branch (100), in accordance with the Law for the Registering of Contractors for Civil Engineering Construction Work 1988.

2. For Lots 100 and 600, bids may be submitted by a contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" is more than 100, and who is registered in the Contractors Register in the 100 Branch, Section 4 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" exceeds 100.

For Lots 200, 400 and 500, bids may be submitted by a contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" is less than 75, if he is registered under Branch 100, Section 3 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" is less than 75.

For Lot 300, bids may be submitted by a contractor whose "calculated average number of housing units" does not exceed 100, if he is registered under Branch 100, Section 5 Gimmel, or an entrepreneur whose "calculated average number of housing units" is above 100. The "calculated average number of housing units" will be calculated by reference to the total number of housing units and other construction areas, the building of which was completed after June 1, 1991.

3. A contractor/entrepreneur will provide confirmation of his construction work, completed after June 1, 1991, by providing, inter alia:

- A Form 4, registered on the bidder's name.
- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and another party, demonstrating that the building work was carried out by him; a building permit and Form 4 on the name of the other party should be attached.

- A building agreement, contracted between the bidder and the Ministry of Construction and Housing.

4. The successful bidders will be entitled to accelerated building program incentive, on the conditions set out in the tender documents.

** In addition to the amount paid for the land, the successful bidder will pay the above development costs, directly to the Min. of Construction and Housing for general development and/or such future development work.

The development costs are linked to the index of building inputs for April 1994 (120.7 points). Payment will be made on the basis of the last known index figure.

The successful bidder will not pay VAT on the development costs, will not receive a "tax receipt," and will not be entitled to an set-off amount from the VAT authorities.

The successful bidder will also pay fees and levies to the local authority, in accordance with the municipal bylaws, as detailed in the tender documents.

Bidders may submit a bid for one or more lots, but will not be awarded the tender for more than one lot.

The tender booklet will be available from August 28, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Bank for NIS500 (cash only, including VAT), for a payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, at the Israel Lands Administration, 34 Rehov Ben Yehuda, Jerusalem (12th floor), ☎ 02-254121, during regular working hours. The office is closed on Fridays and the eve of festivals.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 13, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid or to reject all bids, including the highest.

This notice is for general information only. Nothing in this notice commits the Administration and the Ministry in any way, either in regard to the content of the notice, nor in regard to dates given. The binding conditions are those given in the tender booklet and its appendices.

A tour of the construction site will be held on October 2, 1994, at 10 a.m.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION - Haifa Region Temporary license offered for Plot No. 17 for a period of 3 years to operate a parking lot in the Haifa Bay Industrial Area - Invitation to Tender 238/94/Het

Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 3 year license to operate a parking lot.

Block	Parcel	Area in sq.m.	*Minimum amount required (NIS) as service charge for 3 years (exc. VAT)
11910	17	4,587	293,803

* Minimum charge is fixed for the period of 33 months, even though the license is for 36 months, to allow the winner of the bid 3 months for organization (to receive various licenses, to prepare the area, etc.).

No construction will be allowed on the area.
The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from August 22, 1994, on submission of a receipt from the Postal Office Bank for NIS100 (cash only, including VAT), for payment into Israel Lands Administration account 0-24180-0, per booklet. The booklets will be available at the Israel Lands Administration, Haifa Region, 13 Derech HaTzemaout, Haifa, ☎ (04) 355411, during regular working hours. On Friday and the eve of festivals, the office is closed.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids as deposit. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

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Bids are invited from those interested in signing a 2 year development agreement, to be followed by a 49 year lease with option to extend for another 49 years, for plots whose details are as follows:

Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area (sq.m.)	Total Construction Area (sq.m.)	No. of Units	Dev. Costs* NIS (exc. VAT)
7948	15	53, 65-73, 82-87, 286	14,880	8,080	54	3,000,248

* According to Urban Building Plans 15/401/nun tav and 15/401/nun tav alef, Plot 286 is zoned as Residential Area 1 Alef, for 4 row houses, each unit 70 sq.m. per floor, with total of 140 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. Plots 53, 65-73, 82-87 are zoned as Residential Alef, for 50 two-family, semi-detached houses, each unit 75 sq.m. per floor, with total of 150 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% of the plot area per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. In each unit a partial attic of up to 10% of the house's land can be built and a basement of 50 sq.m., as specified in the urban building plan.

Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area (sq.m.)	Total Construction Area (sq.m.)	No. of Units	Dev. Costs* NIS (exc. VAT)
7948	15	48-52, 261-263, 272-285	15,082	7,080	48	3,005,380

* According to Urban Building Plans 15/401/nun tav and 15/401/nun tav alef, Plots 283-285 are as Residential Area 1 Alef, for 4 row houses per plot, total of 12 units. Each unit is 70 sq.m. per floor, with total of 140 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. Plots 48-52, 261-263, 272-282 are zoned as Residential Alef, for 38 two-family, semi-detached houses, each unit 75 sq.m. per floor, with total of 150 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% of the plot area per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. In each unit a partial attic of up to 10% of the house's land can be built and a basement of 50 sq.m., as specified in the urban building plan.

Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area (sq.m.)	Total Construction Area (sq.m.)	No. of Units	Dev. Costs* NIS (exc. VAT)
7948	15	238-244, 249-250	8,058	5,400	36	1,851,212

* According to Urban Building Plans 15/401/nun tav and 15/401/nun tav alef: in plots 238-244, 249-250, which are zoned as Residential Area Alef, 36 two-family, semi-detached houses can be built, each unit 75 sq.m. per floor, with total of 150 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% of the plot area per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. In each unit a partial attic of up to 10% of the house's land can be built and a basement of 50 sq.m., as specified in the urban building plan.

Block	Part of Parcel	Plots	Approx. Area (sq.m.)	Total Construction Area (sq.m.)	No. of Units	Dev. Costs* NIS (exc. VAT)
7705	32	41-48	11,513	4,900	32	2,382,690
7948	15	264-271				
7950	11, 16					

* According to Urban Building Plans 15/401/nun tav and 15/401/nun tav alef: in plots 41-48 and 264-271, which are zoned as Residential Area Alef, 32 two-family, semi-detached houses can be built, each unit 75 sq.m. per floor, with total of 150 sq.m. on 2 floors, or 30% of the plot area per floor, with total of 60% on two floors. In each unit a partial attic of up to 10% of the house's land can be built and a basement of 50 sq.m., as specified in the urban building plan.

In addition to the sum for the land, the successful bidder will pay the Kiryat Nordau Development Company the above listed development costs, linked to the building index of July out by the company.

The Israel Lands Administration reserves the right to accept any bid, or to reject all bids, including the highest.

The tender booklet will be available from Wednesday, August 24, 1993, against payment of NIS100 cash (including VAT) per booklet at the Israel Lands Administration, Tel Aviv Region, 88 Derech Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, ☎ 03-5638383, during regular working hours. On Friday and the eve of festivals, the office is closed.

A bank check or bank guarantee of 10% of the bid total should be attached to bids. Last date for submitting bids: October 26, 1994 (12 noon). A bid not found in the tenders box when it is opened, whatever the reason, cannot be considered.

Chaos reigns at Rwandan border

BUKAVU, Zaire, (Reuters) - Unyielding Zairean troops and confusion among relief agencies held up the crossing of thousands of exhausted Rwandan refugees into Zaire yesterday.

There was no repeat of the chaotic scenes at the bridge called Ruzizi-1, when Zairean paratroopers shoved angry refugees and fired into the air to stop them storming across after the frontier was closed on Saturday.

The US relief agency Care was setting up a new camp at Hongo, 18 km from the border to take up to 80,000 people.

"We'll be setting up the camp from scratch today," Care coordinator Mark Richardson told reporters. "We hope to do a shuttle service to pick up refugees massed at the border."

Trucks were expected in the early morning at the Ruzizi-2 border bridge to ferry across Rwandans, many of them children, separated from their families by Zaire's closure of the border at Bukavu.

But by late morning, an impatient UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) field officer was yelling into his radio that trucks had not been sent.

The latest surge of refugees was prompted by the pull-out of French troops from southwest Rwanda. The refugees, most of them from the majority Hutu tribe, fear violence from the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) in revenge for the killings of at least 500,000 Rwandans, mainly Tutsis, by Hutus earlier this year.

The RPF, which is dominated by Tutsis, overthrew the government in July, triggering a first refugee exodus into Zaire and other neighboring countries.

Ruzizi-1 bridge remained closed yesterday and Ruzizi-2 border post, 12 km away, was also although it was supposed to open.

As refugees patiently waited in the background for their fate to be settled, UNHCR official Pierre-Solange Louba argued with a Zairean paratroop officer.

The soldier, eyes hidden behind sunglasses, said the UNHCR and other aid agencies must first evacuate the 5,000 people clogging up the dirt road on the Zairean side of the border.

Louba suggested letting the thousands of refugees massed on the Rwandan side of the Ruzizi river walk to Hongo camp without waiting for the trucks. "They say there're ready to walk, that for them 12 km is a trifle," he said.

By early afternoon, at least one bus and one truck rolled down to the border post and the evacuation of the sick and exhausted refugees was apparently about to start.

The confusion at the Bukavu border was likely to give ammunition to critics of France's withdrawal from Rwanda at the end of a controversial two-month humanitarian mission.

Egypt hangs five Moslem militants

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egypt, maintaining its relentless fight against Moslem militants, hanged five men yesterday for trying to kill Interior Minister Hassan al-Ali last August.

A security source said the five men, sentenced last month for the failed bomb attack on Ali's motorcade in central Cairo, were hanged in a Cairo jail yesterday morning.

As the executions were taking place in the Egyptian capital, police killed three suspected militants in the southern town of Sohag in a shootout after surrounding their flat.

The hanged men were the last group of 15 militants to be executed in the aftermath of three separate abortive assassination attempts last year against Ali, Prime Minister Atef Sedki, and Information Minister Safwat Sherif.

Five men were hanged in May for the bomb attack on Sedki and five more were hanged in July last year for trying to kill Sherif. All of them were convicted after swift trials in military courts condemned by human rights groups.

Ali narrowly escaped death when a bomb planted outside the Interior Ministry exploded just before his motorcade passed, but

two militants and three civilians were killed in the blast.

The five militants hanged yesterday were charged along with 10 other men with belonging to the outlawed militant group Jihad (Holy Struggle) - a revival of the group which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981.

At their trial, from which foreign journalists were barred, they were convicted on other charges including murdering a suspected militant who broke from their group, and setting off a bomb at a Cairo youth club where police officers were training.

They were also convicted of the murder in February of a prosecution witness in the case against militants who tried to kill Sedki.

The prosecution also added charges of plotting two attempts to kill President Hosni Mubarak, three against Sherif, two against Ali and one against UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

More than 400 people have been killed in Egypt in militant-related violence since March 1992, but the government has clamped down with police raids and widespread arrests.

As a result militant groups have been relatively quiet for the last few months after a spate of attacks in March.

Moroccan plane crashes in Atlas mountains, 44 dead

RABAT (Reuters) - A Moroccan airliner crashed in the Atlas mountains near the southern Moroccan seaside resort of Agadir on Sunday night, killing all 44 people on board, the civil aviation authority said.

Prince Ali Hmou al-Sabah of Kuwait and his wife Moutazza were among the dead, the national airline Royal Air Maroc (RAM) said yesterday.

A spokesman said the couple boarded the domestic flight at the last minute in Agadir. He said the passengers included 16 foreign tourists in all, among them eight Italians and some French nationals.

The European Aerospaciale ATR-42 propeller-driven aircraft was carrying 40 passengers and a crew of four on a domestic flight from Agadir to Casablanca.

"The plane disintegrated completely. We are afraid there were no survivors," a local security source said earlier, adding that the

Royal Air Maroc airliner crashed at shortly after takeoff from Agadir airport.

He said people near the scene heard an explosion but it was not clear whether it occurred while the plane was still in the air or when it hit the mountain.

The civil aviation spokesman said the cause of the crash was not yet known. The aircraft was in good condition and the weather was fine.

In Paris, Franco-Italian consortium Avions de Transport Regional (ATR) said it was sending a team of five experts to Morocco.

A spokeswoman said by phone from the firm's southern French headquarters in Toulouse that the team was being accompanied by three officials from the French civil aviation accident office.

ATR is a joint-venture between French state-owned Aerospaciale and Alenia SpA of Italy, part of the Finmeccanica group.



Mexican presidential candidate Ernesto Zedillo, who claimed victory based on early returns, speaks to the press yesterday at his Mexico City headquarters. (AP)

Zedillo claims victory, opponents say balloting unfair

JOHN RICE
MEXICO CITY

ERNESTO Zedillo, the candidate of the party that has ruled Mexico for 65 years, declared victory yesterday in elections his opponents charged were unfair.

With nearly one-fifth of the ballots tabulated, official results showed Zedillo easily ahead with 47 percent of the vote for president. Conservative candidate Diego Fernandez de Cevallos was a distant second with 31 percent in the most scrutinized election in Mexican history.

While exit polls indicated Zedillo is likely to win, the election Sunday was considered a crucial test of Mexico's democracy and its stability after an Indian uprising in January and the assassination of a popular presidential candidate in March.

Turnout was sharply higher for Sunday's vote - 70%-75%, compared to the last presidential election in 1988, when just 50% of the eligible voters cast ballots.

Despite the high voter turnout, protests erupted across the country over shortages of ballots that kept thousands more from casting votes.

Zedillo, a 42-year-old economist with the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, took the high road.

"On this election day, there are no defeated. The most important victory is for democracy in Mexico. We all have a place in that," Zedillo said in a brief victory statement after the first results were released early yesterday morning showing him with 47% of the vote.

Several hours later, the federal election institute released new numbers that showed Zedillo marginally increasing his lead to 47.25%. With 18% of the precincts counted, Fernandez of the National Action Par-

ty, or PAN, dropped a bit but remained in second with 31.18%.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas of the leftist Democratic Revolution Party, or PRD, had 15.49%, down a bit as well. Six other opposition candidates trailed far behind.

The government news agency Notimex reported yesterday that Samuel I. Del Villar, the PRD's representative to the electoral institute, had accused election officials of specially selecting the first batch of preliminary figures to show Zedillo with a high percentage.

He noted that the first unofficial votes came out yesterday, six hours after the polls closed, and hours later than expected.

Institute Director Arturo Nunez denied Del Villar's accusations, Notimex said.

Zedillo was little-known at the start of the campaign, thrust into the PRI candidacy for the assassination of the party's first candidate, Luis Donaldo Colosio, on March 23 in Tijuana.

He vowed to continue the free-market economic reforms of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, capped by the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada. Salinas is barred by the constitution from running for a consecutive term and leaves office Dec. 1.

Zedillo praised his rivals for their "good faith and the aspiration to serve Mexico."

He earlier predicted the cleanest election in Mexican history. The PRI often resorted to fraud in past elections to stay in power.

But Fernandez complained yesterday about a "profoundly unequal and profoundly unjust" election system despite reforms, and Cardenas said his own exit polls showed he was winning the election. (AP)

'Great Architect' Deng Xiaoping turns 90

BEIJING (AP) - China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, turned 90 yesterday, but the auspicious event passed with little fanfare, official or otherwise.

Several major newspapers carried front-page photos of Deng and commentaries praising his contributions to the nation, but none said explicitly today is his birthday.

They did carry lengthy articles making it clear that despite the absence of public fanfare, the pragmatic policies of China's "General Designer" or "Great Architect," as Deng is sometimes called, remain the official line.

"Over the past ten years, China's economic development has been so fast, the changes so momentous - Deng Xiaoping's name can't be separated from that," the official People's Daily said in a front-page editorial. It carried a 1984 photo of the chainsmoking Deng with a cigarette.

For Asians, the beginning of another decade of life is a landmark occasion.

Wary of a personality cult similar to that which surrounded Mao Zedong during his later years, though, Deng has discouraged official adulation since he took power in the late 1970s.

His 80th birthday also was not marked with official festivities, although photos were published showing him swimming at his summer retreat on the Yellow Sea, east of Beijing.

There is virtually no information about Deng's activities. Government officials will not divulge anything, they say, because he is just a private citizen who holds no office.

A photo exhibition entitled "Greetings, Comrade Xiaoping" in central Beijing at-

tracted only a few hundred viewers yesterday, and aside from modest book displays in downtown bookstores, the streets yielded little evidence of Deng's exalted status as the nation's paramount leader.

Though they did not explicitly mention Deng's birthday, the official media did carry more than the usual quota of commentaries on the importance of Deng's pragmatic style of socialism.

The People's Daily commentary described Deng's theories of Chinese-style socialism as "a strong spiritual pillar for reinvigorating the nation."

The Beijing Daily, a local official newspaper, also carried photos of the aging leader and an inscription of Deng's calligraphy about education.

As Deng grows increasingly frail and retreats further and further from the public eye, attention is focusing less on his decisions - or personal milestones - now than on what will happen after his death.

China has enjoyed relative stability during Deng's reign. Authorities have clamped down on labor activists and dissidents, apparently determined to ensure it survives his departure.

Newspapers in Hong Kong, a colony increasingly jittery over Deng's health as it approaches Chinese control in 1997, paid special attention to his birthday.

"It is undeniable that compared to Mao Zedong and other Communist leaders of his generation, Deng has made the greatest contributions to the Chinese people, and caused the least harm," the independent Overseas Chinese Daily News said in a congratulatory editorial.

UN wants to monitor blockade of Bosnian Serbs

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Yasushi Akashi, the UN envoy in Yugoslavia, met Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic yesterday to press for international monitoring of Belgrade's blockade of Bosnian Serbs.

"One of the top issues will be the Serbian action to close the border with Bosnia, and the possible ways of monitoring the closure of the border," said Paul Risley, UN spokesman in Zagreb, prior to Akashi's visit.

Milosevic has slapped a tough embargo on ethnic kin in Bosnia following their repeated refusal to accept a proposed territorial settlement roughly dividing Bosnia in two between themselves and Moslem and Croat foes.

A previous blockade imposed after the

rejection of the Vance-Owen plan in May 1993 evaporated and scepticism persists in the West over the toughness of the new Yugoslav measures.

Milosevic has told diplomats that, without the lifting of sanctions imposed on Yugoslavia for backing Serbs in the Bosnian war, he could not accept international monitors on the border because he was worried about a domestic political backlash.

"The first step in a discussion about the possible easing of sanctions would be to independently verify that the border is sealed," said Risley. He said further concessions would be needed from Milosevic before any removal of measures that have isolated Serbia and Montenegro.

House okays \$30b. anti-crime bill

WASHINGTON (AP) - With moderate Republicans providing the margin of victory, the House approved a \$30 billion anti-crime package that would help put 100,000 more police on the streets and ban assault-style firearms. The vote gave President Clinton a sorely needed victory.

Clinton said he was "very grateful" to the Republicans who helped negotiate the package with Democrats after the House shelved an earlier, \$33.5 billion version on Aug. 11.

The vote was 235-195 for the new package, completed before dawn yesterday. It survived two votes that could have stopped it in its tracks.

"This is the way Washington should work, and I hope it works this way in the future," Clinton said of the bipartisan effort.

Of the 235 votes in favor, 188 were Democrats, 46 were Republicans and one was independent. Voting against it were 131 Republicans and 64 Democrats.

Clinton recognized that "this fight is far from over," since conservative Republicans in the Senate have vowed to stall action because of crime-prevention spending in the bill that they have criticized as "pork."

That raised the prospect of a filibuster that would require 60 votes to overcome and send the legislation to the White House for signature into law.

Nonetheless, the House vote was a victory for Clinton and for the moderate Republicans, most of whom supported the firearms ban, who worked with Democratic

leaders to work out the new bill after Democratic gun-control opponents deserted Clinton.

The president lobbied strenuously for the bill and dispatched several top Cabinet officials to Capitol Hill to lobby in person.

Earlier, the House had voted 197-232 to turn aside a motion to send the measure back to a House-Senate conference to be reformulated like the alternative authored by two gun-control opponents.

Still earlier, it had voted 239-189 for a procedural motion that moved the crime bill to House floor for consideration just 10 days after it defeated a similar move that prevented consideration of a \$33.5 billion version - branding President Clinton a major defeat.

Despite a surge of support for the alternative, Majority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., had predicted hours before the final series of votes that the House would approve the compromise worked out at 3 a.m. yesterday.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jack Brooks, D-Texas, despite his strong opposition to the firearms ban, told the House: "It's important that we move forward today with the legislation, no longer defer our compact with the people to ensure their safety and productivity."

On the other side, Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., called the legislation "a very bad bill," saying it does not "put swiftness and certainty of justice back into the American justice system."

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BY CHARLES M. SCHULZ



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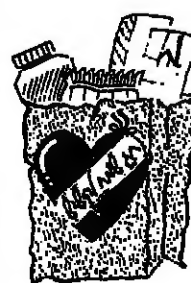
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Peres on Iran

MEETING with Germany's Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel yesterday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres complained that Germany is far too close to Iran. The Tehran regime, Peres reportedly said, is pulling the wool over the world's eyes, speaking the language of diplomacy while exporting terrorism and non-conventional warfare capabilities. It is dangerous, and it should be isolated, not coddled.

In response, Kinkel said isolating Iran would only make it more dangerous. The opposite tactics would be more effective; through closer relations, accompanied by constructive criticism, the mullahs in Tehran would become civilized.

To Peres this must have sounded like a regurgitation of what British and French politicians used to say about the Nazi regime in the 1930s. The argument is as false now as it was then. Neither Kinkel nor anyone else really believes that Iran can be made moderate through closer contacts with the West. Germany and other countries simply want to reap the profits that business with a large and rich country can offer. And in less sanctimonious moments, German leaders will admit that the reason they trade with Iran - supplying it with the components for conventional and non-conventional warfare - is that if they don't, others will.

If this sounds precisely like the kind of explanations offered for trading with Saddam Hussein it is because the two cases, and indeed all such cases, are identical in principle. Israelis remember that German and other Western suppliers enabled Iraq to develop the capacity to bomb Israel with Scuds.

But the Germans, having atoned with financial grants and submarines for their part in causing Israeli deaths and property losses, seem to believe the price is worth paying again if necessary.

Yet the dilemma of the Western world is real enough. German firms can hardly be blamed for craving the profits French firms are allowed to make. Nor is the competition confined to the West. There is no reason Western countries should look enviously and helplessly at Russian and Chinese sales.

The only reasonable solution is concerted international action. This is what the founders of the United Nations envisioned for the world organization. But the UN has found it easier to pounce on Israel than to confront the ruthless dictatorships which really threaten world peace.

Today such regimes exist mostly in the Middle East. If all Western countries were to impose sanctions on them, even as inefficiently and halfheartedly as they have done against Iraq, the Iranian threat would be dramatically diminished. Even Russia, China, and North Korea would have to adhere to such sanctions under Western pressure. Yet the West seems intent on committing the same mistakes over and over again, slavishly imitating its conduct toward Iraq in its treatment of Iran.

Unfortunately, Peres's own position is hardly a model of consistency. Having bestowed Israel's stamp of approval on Yasser Arafat and Hafez Assad, he may find it difficult to convince his German hosts that relations with Hashemi Rafsanjani are an unforgivable, mortal sin.

Picking up Castro's gauntlet

THERE'S no pleasing some people. US Republicans continuously sniping at President Bill Clinton - most recently for "dithering" over Haiti - would surely applaud his decisive action in response to dictator Fidel Castro's latest attempt to dump masses of Cubans on American shores. No such luck.

Newt Gingrich, the Republicans' deputy leader in the House of Representatives, has led a chorus denouncing, not Castro, but the president. He attacked Clinton for losing the "moral compass" of the United States by changing the policy that allowed Cubans free access to the US. He was joined by others, including Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen of Florida, with a different accusation - doing "too little, too late."

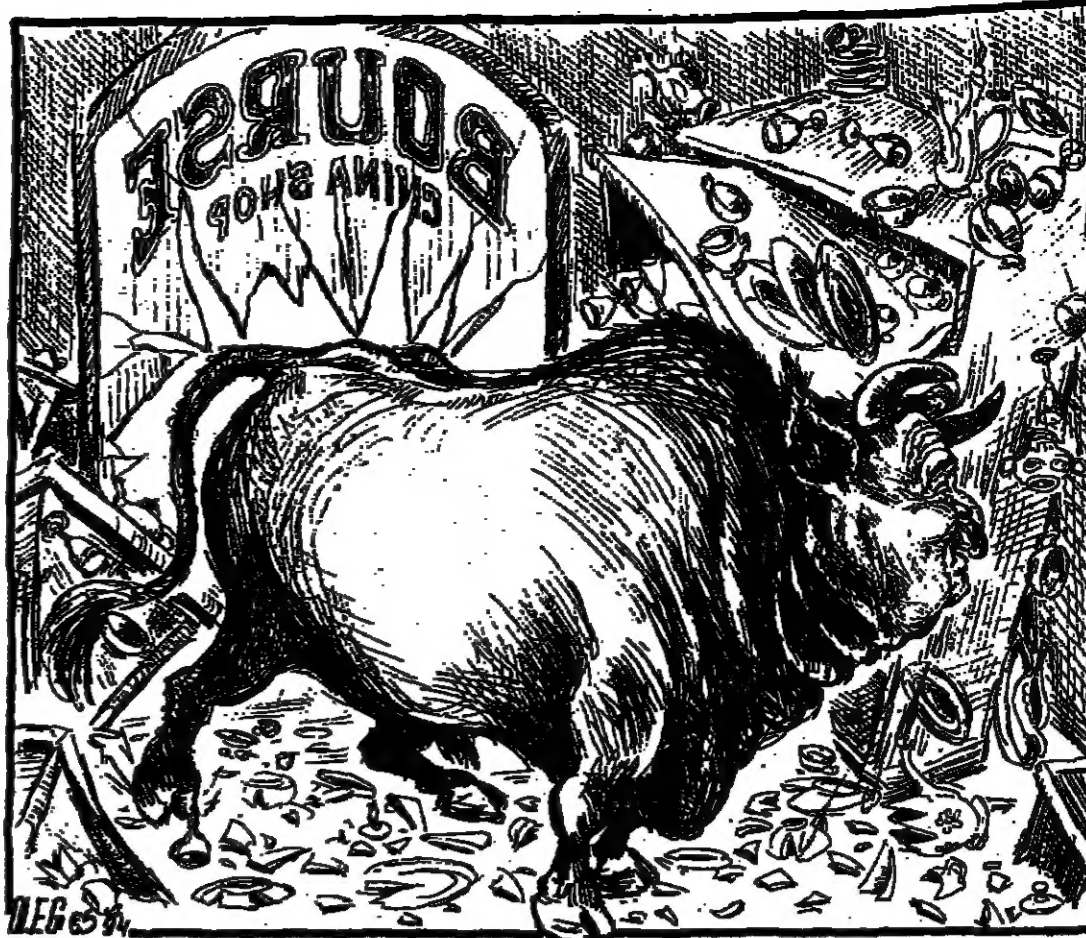
This is arrant nonsense. Clinton is to be commended for a rapid and calculated tightening of the screws on Castro. The incoherent howls of protest coming from Havana are a sure sign that Castro grossly miscalculated how Clinton would react to the dictator's attempt to export his self-generated problems.

Castro's cynical expulsion of 125,000 Cubans in the Mariel boatlift of 1980 conveniently emptied his criminal prisons and insane asylums and dumped endless social problems on the hitherto law-abiding and industrious Cuban community of Florida. His latest action in sparking a mass exodus is even more cynical and a sign of the tyrant's desperation. It followed serious rioting in

Havana - a sure sign that Castro's grip is slipping - and is merely his way of defusing tensions and switching attention from the wretched economic plight of his country. It is despicable that a so-called "people's leader" should be prepared to risk the lives of the poor and wretched at sea and expect them to abandon their native homeland, rather than abandon his own discredited and defunct Marxist nonsense.

The fact that so many Cubans are prepared to face such risks and exile to escape the communist tyranny does not appear to have given the right message to the illogical Castro. It is a message Clinton has obviously understood since he followed his ban on direct entry of the immigrants with sanctions that will hit Castro where it hurts. The blocking of dollar remittances sent to Cuba by exiles is likely to have the sharpest sting - these amount to a colossal \$500 million a year.

It is a cheap shot for Clinton's domestic critics to say the new sanctions will hit the Cuban people, not Castro. Of course they will hurt the already poor Cubans - just as sanctions once hit poor blacks in South Africa. Yet the blacks were the staunchest supporters of the necessary pain. It is right that America is no longer willing to be a convenient safety valve for Castro's pressure-cooker Cuba. The time has come to let it blow, and sweep the communist dictator into the same wilderness as his former buddies in Eastern Europe.



Like thieves in the night

THE decision to tax share profits has shaken things to their foundations, making it difficult to deal with "small matters." But we have no alternative.

One senior minister, before flying off to Egypt, proclaimed that "We haven't made any security compromises since Oslo." But I feel we have made many unnecessary concessions, and I decided to revisit Gush Katif to see if I was wrong.

Men there wore different uniforms. I saw three types of service boots. Chances prevailed. Our leaders visit China, Germany and the US, dealing with strategic issues of world-shaking importance.

That's honorable, important, even. But it's also easier and more pleasant than dealing with the problem of smelly, sweat-soaked bullet-proof vests, or determining the alertness of a soldier guarding an outpost - which is what will ultimately determine whether he hits an attacker or, Heaven forbid, makes his final journey accompanied by weeping fellow-soldiers.

I love the IDF and am jealous of its honor, and this is difficult for me to write. But I see it as my duty. In the Gaza Strip, security is bad. The government cites statistics to show there have been fewer incidents. When we use fewer roads there, the number of stone-throwing attacks drops. But there are many cases of terrorists using firearms, and casualties are rising. In the past three months, there have been 60 cases of shooting. And it's getting worse.

There were four terror strikes in less than 24 hours. One Jew was killed and seven wounded. I visited the spot, expecting to find additional army posts along the road, but nothing. The Palestinian police objected. I had hoped to see patrols moving through the fields on both sides of the road, but there were none. The Palestinian police objected.

ARIEL SHARON

Armed Hamas men circulate, and no one fires at them. "When does a soldier have to shoot?" I ask? They correct me: "You mean not when should be, but when is he allowed to?"

When you ask a commander how our soldiers should behave, you get an army-type response: "If terrorists shoot at them, they should blow

Officers and soldiers doing difficult, dangerous jobs are being put in an intolerable situation, and more than a few soldiers are afraid. They are forbidden to shoot. The message is that we're leaving in any case, and soon there will be peace.

The moment before a cease-fire is always difficult. Soldiers don't want to expose themselves to danger any more. There simply isn't enough motivation. But here, there's no end to gunfire - the opposite, in fact. The security situation is deteriorating, and we can't relax.

The Palestinian forces are trigger-happy. A few days ago, they fired over the heads of four unarmed Jews trying to ward off an Arab mob which was flinging rocks at them. In another case, a Palestinian soldier aimed his gun at the head of a Border Police officer on a joint patrol with him and cocked it when the Israeli tried to stop firing after a burst of shooting in the area. He was trying to let a busload of children from Morag settlement go by.

And we swallow it all silently. Unrestrained Arab building is going ahead in the Mawassi sector of Katif, in violation of the agreement. This is already a security danger. Arabs are asking over the shoreline at Gush Katif, again in violation of the agreement. That is a future security danger.

The IDF complains to the Palestinian police, which laughs in return. The illegal building continues. So do the ludicrous remarks that we haven't compromised on security. Instead of removing these buildings right away, they shrug their shoulders and say, "We're leaving soon. Why get mixed up in this?"

An army that conducts itself this way won't carry out orders elsewhere, either.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former minister of defense.

We haven't compromised on security since Oslo? What a laugh

them to bits." But there's always a "but." It refers to a terrorist firing at a soldier with the intention of hitting him. He must be positively identified, and others in the vicinity must not be harmed by return fire. "Do you want a child hurt?" (But who wants to hurt a child?)

A soldier asks his officer: "When I see them cutting the fence of a Jewish settlement in Gush Katif, must I shoot?" The reply: "Use your judgment; if the infiltrator is a murderer, yes; if he's a thief, no." But how can a soldier tell which is which at night? And what if the thief is also a killer?

This man was no prophet

GIDEON LEVY, a columnist who specializes in sob-stories portraying the suffering of the Palestinians under the boot of Israeli occupation, this week bemoaned the fact that only one cabinet minister, Meretz's Yair Tabaan, bothered to attend last week's funeral of Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz. This, despite the prominence and emotion-laden coverage accorded to Leibowitz's death at 91, by the media.

The end of the shiva period of mourning is certainly no license to begin chopping away at the personal memory of any deceased person. But I can only praise Yitzhak Rabin and the rest of the cabinet for demonstratively refusing to join in praising Leibowitz. And since Leibowitz's besotted political disciples insist of speaking of him as the foremost prophet and moral symbol of the period, the end of the shiva does provide a much needed opportunity to dispel such adulatory inanities.

Leibowitz was no prophet. To have predicted and fomented as Leibowitz had shortly after the end of the Six Day War that continued occupation of the territories would not work for long, and was fraught with moral dilemmas, cannot qualify as prescience or prophecy. It was obvious to most Israelis, even in the heady inter-war years of 1967-73, that occupation would be problematic, both politically and morally. The problem was the lack of a better alternative.

Leibowitz's fulminations against the continued Israeli presence in the territories began at about the time of the Khartoum Conference. At that meeting, four months after the trauma of their ignominious defeat in June 1967, the Arab League categorically rejected the offer of the Eshkol government to enter into negotiations for returning nearly all of the territories in exchange for recognition and peace.

YOSEF GOELL

The Khartoum reply was no peace, no recognition and no negotiations with Israel.

To propose shaking off the moral dilemmas of the occupation by getting rid of all the territories without trying to use them as a trade-off for some sort of agreement with the

Prof. Leibowitz was simplistic and shortsighted

Arabs was a position of political short-sightedness of the highest degree.

THOSE WHO claim Leibowitz as a prophet point to the recent breakthrough with the PLO. Even Leibowitz was moved to express some hesitant second thoughts about Rabin, whom he loathed, in a recent interview. But there is not the slightest resemblance between Leibowitz's simplistic prescriptions and the "calculated risk" Rabin was ready to take with the PLO a year ago.

Besides the fact that a year after Oslo it is still far from certain whether that calculated risk has actually paid off, the main difference between Leibowitz's "prophecies" and Rabin's performance is that the breakthrough would not have occurred had the Soviet Union not collapsed and had the PLO not been on the verge of extinction. Not being a prophet is no crime; even being wrong is no cause for public obloquy. But in descending into the use of undiluted verbal vitriol, Leibowitz purposely set out to be a poisoner of the public debate.

He was a precursor of the modern-day abomination known as TV's *Popolizza*.

In an Israel that was agonizing over an insoluble problem, Leibowitz chose to add academic legitimacy to the exacerbating of that debate rather than to the search for a realistic solution and the fostering of a national consensus.

Because Jewish culture respects persons of great age, Leibowitz was usually forgiven his sins and excesses. In an Israel whose literal existence depends on the readiness of its citizen-army to defend it against real Arab enemies, calling on reserve soldiers to refuse to serve, as Leibowitz did, should not be forgiven. Seeking to link the IDF's elite Duvdevan and Shimon units (whose pinpoint hunting down of intifada killer units was meant to replace the need for the army to attack rioting civilians) with the indiscriminate murderers of the Hamas, as Leibowitz argued, was inexcusable.

I turned out on Leibowitz after he delivered himself of his "Judeo-Nazi" diatribe against IDF soldiers. Even Arafat and his Palestinian killers did not deserve to be compared with the Nazis. Anyone who was incapable of distinguishing between the wrongs perpetrated in wartime, and especially in the morally ambiguous situations typical of intense national confrontations, and the innate planned evil of the Nazis, deserved to be totally ignored.

Wisdom entails the capacity to generalize on the basis of similarities; it also requires the sensitivity to differentiate between only superficial similarities. Leibowitz, the public man, seems to have purposefully honed the absence of that latter form of wisdom.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on public affairs.

Woman hunt

SUSAN SONTAG

Taslima Nasrin, a Bangladeshi author threatened with assassination by religious zealots for comments perceived to be anti-Islamic, fled to Sweden last week after being officially charged in Bangladesh with offending Muslims. Novelist and critic Susan Sontag addresses a letter to Nasrin in exile.

YOUR case, if that's the right word, has often been cited as a new example of the far-reaching, implacable judgment that has obliged Salman Rushdie to live in Britain under armed guard, constantly moving from one clandestine residence to another, for the past five years.

Salman Rushdie wrote a novel, *The Satanic Verses*, and one of the reviews was a death sentence. Last year you wrote a novel, *Lejla* ("Shame"), which was first published in your country, then swiftly banned; and after the banning came the calls to prosecute you for blasphemy, the penalty for which is death.

There is of course the difference that you have been persecuted and menaced by political forces in the country of which you are a citizen, while the British citizen Salman Rushdie was first sentenced to death in a country with which he had no connection, Iran. But it is

The signature element of a repressive society is the oppression of women

the same charge: "blasphemy" or, in more secular language, that a writer has "offended" the feelings of believers.

But there is another element in your situation that I can't help being sensitive to, since I am not only a fellow writer but belong to the same half of the human race as you. You are not only being judged as a writer. You are being judged as a woman. You are part of a noble tradition of women in the Islamic world of the 20th century. Perhaps the senior figure is the Egyptian writer (and, like yourself, a physician), Nawal El Saadawi, who for decades has been writing books that denounce the exploitation and oppression of women. There is, if I may put it this way, nothing original in the demands you are making. And this is all to your credit.

IN FACT, your ordeal is not about reactions to a book. It is not even about religion. What has happened to Salman Rushdie and to you - and to other less well-publicized instances of the persecution and murder of writers and journalists in Algeria, Egypt, Iran, Syria and Iraq - is about politics.

Your persecution is an instrument of concrete political struggles taking place now in Bangladesh, where so many forms of oppression and economic misery are rife. But the political factions that have put your life at risk are indeed similar to the political factions in various countries that continue to send hit teams to Britain to kill Salman Rushdie.

In modern mass politics, masses need to be "mobilized," and the way this is done is with easy, obfuscating slogans. The demonization of individuals, in which hunts and show trials, is a cheap way to encapsulate the power and appeal of repressive activism. And the signature element of a repressive society is the oppression of women. Those who persecute you are political opportunists - manipulating an idea of "blasphemy" to distract oppressed people, men and women both, from understanding what is persecuting and exploiting them.

You did not ask for a revision of the Koran - as you were charged with doing. What you did was to recommend certain revisions in the Sharia, a body of laws codifying custom and practice that have developed over centuries, and like all bodies of law, is subject to revision and reform. As it happens, the charge of blasphemy brought against you is absurd - though I would want to defend you even if you could be correctly described as a blasphemer. Needless to say, I support your cause for a reform of the Sharia. That is, I support your demands for freedom for the half of the human race to which we both belong. Bangladesh cannot begin to be a just society until the situation of women there improves.

What has happened to you is not just another instance of highly developed 20th-century tradition of persecuting dissident writers. It is as well a woman-hunt. As in the witch hunts that took place for centuries in Europe, the target in many Islamic countries has become, above all, women - women who are not meek and servile, women who dare speak out, women who are (or seem) different. In your name, all women, as well as all writers who dare to think independently, are being persecuted.

(Los Angeles Times)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAGINOT LINE

Sir, - Though closely identified myself with the settlement movement, I nevertheless found Jon Simons' critical analysis of the pitfalls latent in the settlers' current predicament ("The settlers' Maginot Line," J.P., July 20), thought-provoking and valid up to a point.

However, one of his historical metaphors I found inappropriate to say the least. Surely when referring to the Maginot Line (as indeed to another so-called defense line much nearer us is bitter national experience) what first comes to mind is the complacent reliance on conventional static-defense strategy.

Where is complacency more evident today - in the soul-searching and "zealotry" of the right to which Mr.

Simons himself refers, or in the smug platitudes glibly mouthed by our pragmatic peace-makers Oslo style, and incessantly trumpeted abroad by the media irrespective of what is actually happening at ground level?

Whether what we are witnessing today is a process of "normalization" or rather blind appeasement on the part of our government, time alone will tell. Similarly only time will tell whether the settlements are in fact the last defense line of Zionism (bound to fail) or are rather the David face to face with Goliath, five stones in his pouch and a belief in Jewish destiny in his heart. I'm sorry for the "Messianism," Mr. Simons.

CELIA ULANOVSKY
Ginat Shomron.

LAST DAY OF THE WAR

Sir, - I am writing a book on *The Day The War Ended* (May 8, 1945) and wondered if I could enlist help of those of your readers who have particular recollections of that day.

There must be many people living in Jerusalem today, or readers of *The Jerusalem Post*, who, on May 8, 1945, were serving with the Allied armies in Italy and northern Europe, being liberated (in and around Theresienstadt for example), living in DP camps, seeking lost relatives in central Europe, making their way to Palestine, interned in Mauritius, celebrating the end of the war in London,

Paris, Moscow and Jerusalem, still fighting in the Pacific and Far East in the war against Japan, and in countless other places and situations.

Any accounts, short or long, that could be sent to me, of their feelings and activities in that day, will be carefully copied and returned, and would be enormously appreciated, and of course acknowledged in the book itself.

MARTIN GILBERT
36 Parliament Hill
London NW3 2TN
England.

CASUALTIES OF PEACE

Sir, - Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told the joint meeting of the US Congress that he was delighted to be in a war for peace - a war without casualties. But there have been many casualties in this war for peace. Israeli soldiers and civilians are routinely killed by terrorists whose motive is said to be to "kill peace." The nearly 100 killed in Argentina are also victims as are those injured in London. There is a serious question as to whether Rabin's path to peace will stain peace or whether it makes for a long-term war of terrorists' attrition.

FRANCINE FIERSTEIN
Jerusalem (Scarsdale, NY).

ARIDOR'S HUTZPA

Sir, - If the Yoram Aridor who wrote the platitudinous op-ed article on inflation ("The Battle of the Belge," J.P., July 31) is one and the same as he who "presided" over Israel's last (I hope) three-digit inflation, you should have saved his hutzpa for a Purim issue.

If you question my choice of the term "hutzpa," I refer you to the classic definition of the term: the defendant who pleads for mercy as an orphan, after being charged with killing his parents.

The incumbent finance minister may not have solutions to inflation. Mr. Aridor definitely did not.

Jerusalem. MOSHE BERLIN

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'Nabucco:' from Babylon to Auschwitz

FESTIVAL REVIEW

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

DURING the last two summers 300,000 mostly German and Austrian opera-lovers received a very bold, invigorating and far from schmaltzy lesson in Jewish history.

The place was the charming city of Bregenz, situated on a lake and sandwiched between Switzerland and Germany.

The occasion was the annual Bregenz Festival, known for its floating opera stage. And the production was Verdi's *Nabucco*.

The story of King Nebuchadnezzar, who conquered Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple and exiled the Jews to Babylon, and eventually regretted his deed and asked forgiveness from God, was presented in a striking, innovative production by always controversial British director David Pountney and set designer Stefanos Lazaridis.

The production had several striking features. On the surface this was a Steven Spielberg-like *Nabucco*, with such special effects as machine-guns, thunder and lightning, and a heroine who made an entrance like a modern-day Tarzan.

But taking the grandeur away, you got a history of the Jewish people from the days of the real historical Nebuchadnezzar through many later tyrants who exiled and deported Jews.

Although some people might have objected to a production that concluded with a striking scene in which the Temple was rebuilt in all its previous glory, this production was mesmerizing from beginning to end, especially for an Israeli on a hot Bregenz night surrounded by 4,000 Germans and Austrians.

THIS production of *Nabucco* set the story in modern-day Jerusalem and traveled through time from Babylon through the Holocaust to our own age. There were many powerful dramatic and visual moments in the production from the very opening through the

capture of the Temple by Babylonians equipped with machine-guns.

One of the most haunting moments came when the high priest Zechariah sang his aria as if he was standing or walking, Jesus-like, on the water. In another impressive moment, Nabucco sang his mad aria in a huge cage hanging mid-air, many meters above the stage. There were gripping moments in a provocative production that was well sung by Rosalind Plowright (Abigail), Mark Rucker (Nabucco) and Vladimir Grishko (Ismaele).

But, above all, Pountney's production will be remembered for two major scenes. The famous slave chorus, *Va pensiero*, in which the exiled Jews lament their fate, took place in what was obviously a concentration camp. The Jews leaned against a lengthy barbed-wire fence delivering Verdi's haunting cry for freedom.

The scene was even more powerful than usual because of its opening tableaux. During the overture, even before one met Verdi's characters, the audience watched as modern-day Jewish children were being deported. Mafia-like henchmen pushed the children, each with a violin case, towards a boat. The violins were taken from them, left on shore and then burnt. The children, crammed on board, were shipped to an unknown location. They were deported because they were different. And the Swiss and German and Austrian crowd watched in complete silence.

Dr. Alfred Wopmann, the intendant (artistic director) of the Bregenz Festival, said he does not like fundamentalism wherever he sees it. "I detest it. It's inhuman. I don't like it when other people make decisions and think for you," said Wopmann. *Nabucco*, he said, is not "just a biblical story or a story about Italy in the time of Verdi." He added that "the persecution of Jews in still in our experience. The [mass] deportation of



A scene from director David Pountney's version of 'Nabucco,' by Verdi, in which modern-day Jewish children are being deported while overseen by Mafia-like henchmen. (Monika Ritzhaus)

the Jews happened 50 years ago and still happens to Jews and other people all over the world. The Jewish destiny belongs to all mankind."

For these reasons, Wopmann, Pountney and Lazaridis decided to create a *Nabucco* that was appropriate to our times. The huge open space they had to work with helped a lot. "Nabucco needs the open air. The historical and biblical dimension of the piece needs space. We knew that it is usually difficult to find a grand optical perspective for *Nabucco*, and we knew we must have a clear visualization for our production. We were not going to create the hanging gardens of Babylon in Bregenz."

Wopmann said he was approached by producers in Japan

and the US to bring over this and previous open-stage productions from Bregenz, but he refused. "You cannot bring the outdoor atmosphere to other places," he said — not even to Caesarea, where such a *Nabucco* could be most appropriate, both dramatically and historically.

Wopmann, however, is collaborating with other opera houses on the productions which the festival mounts on its indoor stage. This summer he chose Zandonai's *Francesca da Rimini*, a rarity seldom produced elsewhere. "We are proud of our indoor production. Here we do operas that very few other companies do and we maintain the highest standards," Wopmann said that with just one orchestra and greater demand for outdoor production, indoor pro-

duction must be limited.

Francesca is a rather beautiful Italian opera, a simple story of love that goes wrong. The real tragedy occurs at the very end of the opera. In Bregenz, director Robert Fortune and designer Anthony McDonald created a stunning visual production with grand battle scenes and tender love duets. It was a striking visually, well sung and most convincing.

Next summer the Bregenz Festival will mount a new Pountney-Lazaridis floating-stage production of another opera which is a cry against tyranny, Beethoven's *Fidelio*, and indoors, Rimsky-Korsakov's rarely performed *The Invisible City of Kitezh*.

Tickets go on sale early in the fall and should be sold out within a few months as usual.

Acre Festival — back to its roots

FESTIVAL PREVIEW

HELEN KAYE

THE Acre Festival this year is backtracking, and that's great.

Instead of safe shows and the quasi-experimental theater pieces which have diminished the past few festivals, the '94 festival, scheduled for September 20-23, is going back to Acre's founding concept," says artistic committee member Dudu Ma'ayan.

"Most of the 25 original shows that will premiere here have been especially created to suit the special atmosphere and conditions of the Acre venues and haven't been made with an eye on life beyond Acre," says Ma'ayan. "Our choices pretty much reflect the committee's artistic beliefs."

In addition to Ma'ayan, who heads the innovative Acre Theater Center, the theater artists on the committee are director Miki Gurevitz and playwright/directors Rami Danon and Eldad Ziv, all of whom have a less than conventional approach to theater.

The shows include Hani Hamagal's multimedia *Hollow* (Noam Sheriff has written the music), which explores contemporary society through its icons and sacred cows; *Kinneret, Kinneret*, a musical version of the play by Nathan Alterman; and *Children of the Heart*, adapted from David Grossman's novel *See Under: Love*.

The Birth of Apollo is a theater of images which blends the plastic arts with theater and movement. *Asharha* is movement theater with a vengeance, featuring ropes and acrobatics to tell the story of a

woman seeking to preserve her sanity.

Acre "should be seen in the long term," observes producer Ya'akov Agmon. "It's the biggest theater lab in history and some of the experiments will only produce results some years down the road."

An example is the cross-cultural *Diwan*, the improvisational Jewish/Arab story theater which made its debut last year, continued performing in Acre this year, and plans to return for another season.

It combines tales, songs and dances with current affairs. The consistently inventive Neta Plotky has gone beyond the clichés. Her group of Arab and Jewish youth explores the universal sorrows of mental illness in *Dawn and Twilight*.

Additionally, in what is billed as the biggest Acre Festival ever, the visitor can look forward to some 30 percent more street theater this year, with 20 shows in all.

Tickets cost NIS 40, the first time prices have gone up in three years.

As part of its multi-million shekel plan to upgrade Acre into a major tourist attraction, the Tourism Ministry — together with other national and local authorities — has spent some NIS 2.5 million on improvements to the infrastructure.

"There'll be no power cuts this year," Agmon insists, adding enthusiastically that "there's a feeling of euphoria in the air, a feeling of real anticipation for this festival."

Peace plays for kids

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

CYCLES. Written by the Eilat Agra Women's Theater Group. Director: Shai Bar Yancov. Design: L. Ben Nachshon. The Habimah Theater with Eilat Agra at ZOIA House, Tel Aviv. Cast: Salva Karam, Naomi Acherman, Reza Ghazizadeh, Corinne Markov.

THE PEACE LEGEND — a satire for children written by Yoni Lahav. Director: Lior Nachman. Music: Guy Maron. Design: Tula Eytan. The Komikya Theater at The Rosh Auditorium, Ramat Aviv. Hebrew title: *Agadat Eilat*. Cast: Lior Nachman, with four others.

A children's cabaret with naïf overtones and ethnic undertones, it casts four multilingual and versatile actresses in a fast-moving, colorful drama. Their undoubted talents do, however, deserve a stronger, more sophisticated script.

In *The Peace Legend*, Yoni Lahav transfers the satirical vein of his prize-winning *All My Sons Except Naomi*... to the children's stage in a dramatic conflict between a Jewish girl, an Arab boy, and their respective families.

The resultant mix of magic, monsters and the peace message with a moral on political sanity and cynical castigations of inter-racial prejudice and hatreds is a heady potion.

Preocious kids may digest it with ease. The rest will be content with the charming alternative, a liberal dose of visual effects and catchy choruses.

Perfect morning becomes Edie

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

THE songs on Edie Brickell's new album *Picture Perfect Morning* (Hed Arzi) do not reach out and grab you by the ear like "What I Am," her remarkable 1988 hit single with the New Bohemians. But if you give it a chance, especially through a good set of headphones, you may find that this album, produced by husband Paul Simon, becomes addictive.

"I wanted to make an album that I would like to listen to for years," Brickell recently told *Rolling Stone*. Is her first solo release a work that grows on listeners slowly, but ends up having a lot of staying power? I found myself returning to it. But I've watched a few people dismiss it as boring.

Brickell rarely writes catchy tunes. Moreover, her free-association lyrics seldom crystallize into memorable one-liners. However, she does have an irresistible personality.

She radiates both good nature and uncompromising honesty. Her lyrics are intelligent and the tunes do eventually click. Meanwhile the arrangements, which overflow with musicality, are practically intoxicating.

The musicianship here is a pleasure to listen to. But the mood expressed is far from the infectious freshness of the winsome New Bohemians' debut, *Shooting Rubber Bands at the Stars* (Hed Arzi).

That one struck a double platinum chord. Brickell, a 27-year-old married to a man of about 50, has

become decidedly reflective.

It can't be easy to be married to a genius old enough to be her father. And yet this young Texan, who presents herself as the daughter of a professional bowler and a single parent, seems to have found a love that she is eager to share. The sound she's come up with is much gentler than most of what her peers are putting out.

From the first cut, *Tomorrow Comes*, a mood is set which is downright comforting. This song, which features a full half of the Neville Brothers line-up, sounds like it is being sung to someone who's in a funk, a reassuring message that you'll get out there again when the mood lifts.

It's that kind of album, though the first single, "Good Times," which is its catchiest, would indicate otherwise. This features a spoken number by Barry White. Brickell told *Rolling Stone* that when she suggested this to Simon, he thought "That's either funny or brilliant. In fact, what's the difference?" There probably is a difference and I happen to find White's voice somewhat sleazy. But contributions by other interesting choices like Dr. John and the Dixie Cups are on the mark.

"Olivia" comes close to joy as it tells the tale of the moment when "she turned around in her chair and he touched her hair And the universe shifted." (Brickell doesn't believe in punctuation.)

The song continues: "My favorite There's so much more to see Why stay behind When you could go on with me Olivia won't you let your heart come home Olivia Leave those wild young boys alone." Its obvious honesty makes one really wish this slightly odd



Edie Brickell's album 'Picture Perfect Morning' may not reach out and grab you, but it does have subtle staying power.

couple (she's taller than him, too) are the usual pop fair. It will be interesting to see whether the public embraces its un-Hollywoodish ambience.

People may find songs like the lush "Green," about the grass that's greener on the neighbors' side of the fence, comfortable, like an evening at home. Or they may hunger for more dramatic vicarious thrills.

Steady rise in quality

DANCE REVIEWS

DORA SOWDEN

NOW that the end-of-year performances by dance schools and studios are over, it's a good time to reflect on their achievements.

This year, more than any other, teachers have taken their show of work beyond the bounds of their own premises and presented performances in established theaters. This is a sign of confidence in their standards, and most of them have been surprisingly justified.

There were still occasions better suited to the extended family than to the general public, but more were of higher grades, especially in the level of training. Some performances were enhanced, too, by the participation of teachers not only as choreographers but as dancers.

The total impression was of a steady rise in the quality as well as the quantity of dance of every kind in Israel — something to be proud of.

DALIA LOW'S Spanish dance studios staged a performance at the Suzanne Dellal Theater in Tel Aviv — the first such in a theater — at the end of July, and almost the last of the season of year-end displays. Her dancers were well rehearsed, well dressed and well endowed in their styles of flamenco, offering an enjoyable program.

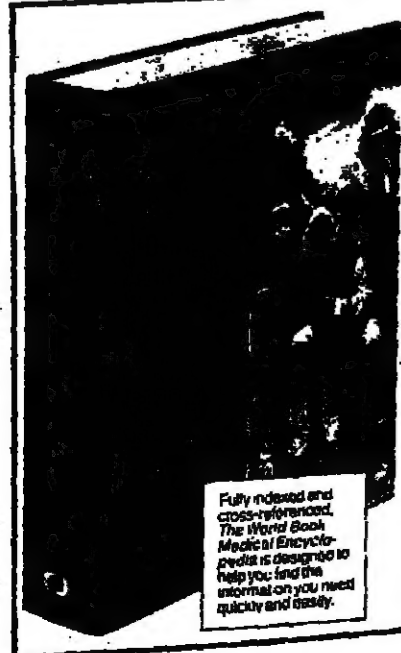
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1994

Cables of Zion,
Cvalim merger
talks break down

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MERGER negotiations between Cvalim - The Electric Wire & Cable Co. and Cables of Zion broke down yesterday following the failure of the two firms' shareholders to reach an agreement on financial issues, Cvalim managing director Shlomo Milo said yesterday.

In a formal announcement to the TASE, the two companies said negotiations broke down due to difficulties in implementation of the merger.

The firms entered negotiations to merge about one month ago in an attempt to increase efficiency and be competitive against foreign cable manufacturers.

"The companies' failure to merge does not create a problem for Cables but means we will have to find other ways to compete," said Milo. "Our recent agreement

with the Italian Pirelli company, the third largest cable manufacturer in the world, is expected to assist us. We hope to sign similar agreements with other companies."

Cables of Zion is controlled by Clal Industries, a member of the Clal Israel Group. The company suffered a net loss of NIS 2.3 million in the second quarter, as compared with a net profit of NIS 2.5m. in the same period last year. Revenues fell to NIS 39.4m. from NIS 50.2m.

Cvalim is controlled by the Ofer Brothers, which owns about 40 percent of the shares. The remainder are traded on the stock exchange.

The company posted a drop in second quarter net profits to NIS 10.1m. from NIS 12.3m. Revenues fell to NIS 74m. from NIS 84.9m.

UK's Bovis to build
new Ben-Gurion terminal

HAIM SHAPIRO

According to the tender, the company carrying out the project has to share the work with Israeli firms, authority director Moti Debi said.

The director of the project is Zvi Frank, who was previously director of the land operations division of the authority and also served as deputy director of the airport.

According to the authority's es-

timates, between \$17 million and \$20m. worth of services will be needed from the international company undertaking the work.

Bovis' Israeli partners are Nit-zan Inbar, which has 25 years of experience in construction, and AMN, which provides administrative services.

After conducting an international survey and preliminary contacts with 10 companies, the authority decided to hold negotiations with six of them.

Rates up on index-linked plans

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

"We are examining the changes in the bond market and will act in accordance with them," said a spokesperson for Bank Leumi.

At the end of last week Bank Discount increased interest rates on index-linked saving plans to 3% from 2.7%. On Sunday, United Mizrahi Bank raised its rates to 3.1% from 2.8%.

Bankers said the new market

conditions give the banks an opportunity to improve their saving plans. At the start of August the banks reduced interest rates on index-linked plans from an average of 3% to 2.7%. This was in response to a recovery on the bond market, accompanied by a fall in bond yields.

The public has injected more than NIS 1.5b. into saving plans since the beginning of April.

Migdal profits fall sharply to NIS 3.9m.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

MIGDAL Insurance, a member of the Africa Israel Group, completed the first half of 1994 with a net profit of NIS 3.9 million compared with a net profit of NIS 33.3m. in the corresponding period last year.

The company said it was hurt by a decline in the value of its traded securities investments which suffered from the sharp drop on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The company's capital account lost NIS 61.2m. in the reported period compared with a profit of NIS 15.4m. in the corresponding period last year.

Profits from life insurance activities fell to NIS 52m. in the first six months of the year compared with NIS 54.4m. in the corresponding

period of 1993. Migdal emphasized it increased provisions to its irregular risks fund by NIS 4m. compared with the first six months of last year.

Migdal's profits from general non-life insurance activities swelled to NIS 34.4m. in the first half of the year compared with NIS 4.7m. in the corresponding period of 1993.

Uzi Levi, managing director of Migdal, said the company has doubled its life insurance sales during over the past two years and improved its general non-life insurance activities compared with other market competitors.

• Ayalon Insurance Company re-

ported a net profit of NIS 111,000 for the second quarter of 1994 compared with a net profit of NIS 193,000 in the corresponding period last year.

The company posted a net profit of NIS 901,000 for the first half of the year compared with a net profit of NIS 212,000 in the first six months of 1993.

Arab Israel Bank, a member of the Bank Leumi Group, completed the second quarter of 1994 with a net profit of NIS 2.28m., compared with a net profit of NIS 5.81m. in the corresponding period last year.

The bank reported a net profit of NIS 6,03m. for the first six months of the year compared with a net profit of NIS 8.1m.

Healthcare Technologies
reports NIS 1.7m. loss

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

HEALTHCARE Technologies has announced a net loss of NIS 1.68 million for the first half of the year, compared with a net profit of NIS 171,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues jumped to NIS 11.8m. from NIS 6.8m. The net loss included some NIS 1.3m., due to the fall in value of securities owned by the company.

The 74% increase in sales was attributed to subsidiaries Diatesh Diagnostics and Savyon-Yaron.

Healthcare Technologies recently signed an agreement with two US-based distributors to market its patented Rapid Diagnostic Kits for HIV detection.

Arad Towels, a division of Delta-Galil, has announced a rise in second quarter net profits to NIS 898,369 from NIS 769,783 during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 18.3m. from NIS 16.8m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.20 from NIS 0.19.

The company cited an increased demand on the part of the local hotel sector, but said sourcing of cheaper raw materials and increased efficiency measures were the main reasons for the rise in profits.

Israel Land Development Insurance has reported a second quarter net loss of NIS 5m., compared with a net profit of NIS 594,000 during the same period last year. The company attributed the fall to a loss of NIS 3.8m. on its securities portfolio in the quarter.

Losses on general insurance

were NIS 335,000, compared with profits of NIS 1.2m. during the same period last year.

Life insurance registered losses of NIS 634,000, compared with a loss of NIS 409,000.

Premiums on general insurance rose to NIS 39.1m. from NIS 27.1m.

Premiums on life insurance also increased, to NIS 19m. from NIS 16m.

In the first half of the year, the company lost NIS 6.9m., compared with a profit of NIS 1.3m. in the same period last year.

At the end of June, shareholders' equity was NIS 26.3m.

Al-Rov (Israel) has reported a net loss of NIS 1.57m. for the second quarter, compared with a net profit of NIS 1.48m. during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 22.6m. from NIS 13.3m.

The holding company, whose main activities include real estate, high tech and fuel, registered capital gains of NIS 11.7m. last year, the result of a share issue of subsidiary Elkant Development.

Capital gains for the parallel quarter of this year were NIS 1.5m.

Al-Rov also pointed to a NIS 4.5m. second quarter loss on the company securities portfolio.

Increased revenues were attributable to an Australian yarn subsidiary, whose results were included for the first time this quarter.

Inter-Gamma announced a rise in net profits to NIS 2.4m. from NIS 2.3m.

Revenues jumped to NIS 60m. from NIS 57.3m., while earnings per share increased to NIS 0.79 from NIS 0.74.

The company attributed growth to increased sales of film and home appliances, despite increased operating costs on the part of subsidiary Delta Quality Products.

Avner Oil Exploration has reported second quarter net losses of NIS 9.3m., compared with losses of NIS 366,953 for the same period last year.

Magma Industries posted a NIS 130,000 net profit for the second quarter, compared with a net loss of NIS 779,000 during the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 3.3m. from NIS 2.8m.

Panel okays dismantling of 9 inactive state firms

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet privatization committee yesterday approved the dismantling of nine inactive state corporations and is planning to do away with another 15 inactive firms, the Treasury announced.

The committee agreed to close the Institute of Farm Income Research, whose activities ended in April. It also decided to dismantle the Agricultural Investment Corporation, which has been inactive since 1989 and has no workers. The firm was a subsidiary of the Agricultural Bank. The committee also agreed to close the International Center on Irrigation Information, which has not operated for a few years.

Tsefa Corporation, which had held trucks for times of emergency that were operated by Israel Chemical's Mifalei Tovola, is to be dismantled. The firm's assets have been transferred to the Fuel Administration.

The committee also decided to dismantle Argat

Industrial Corp., which used to promote the establishment of industrial plants. The company has no workers or assets.

It also agreed to close Maon Laoved, a company established in 1961 to help house and rehabilitate residents of evacuated neighborhoods and to assist large families with little means. The company is not active and has no employees.

Hevrat Hagat Lemifalei Yetau, an inactive government firm set up in the 1960s to invest in export industries, will also be dismantled. The firm's investments have been sold and it has no workers or assets.

Paz Holdings, a company which held Paz Oil's stock until its sale in 1983, will be dismantled, as will the Fuel and Energy Sources Development Corporation, which never was active, never had any purpose and has no workers.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

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THE SECOND AUTHORITY
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OMBUDSMAN

An Ombudsman has been appointed by the Minister in charge of the Second Authority, according to the Second Authority for Television and Radio Law (1990). The Ombudsman will be responsible for investigating complaints submitted by the public.

Complaints should be submitted in writing and signed by the sender. Complaints must include the sender's name and address, precise details of the complaint, and any additional information which may facilitate the investigation of the complaint.

Complaints may be submitted regarding the Authority itself, any of the franchise holders, Channel Two News, or regarding any employee or official working in the employ of the Authority, the franchise holders, or Channel Two News.

Complaints should be sent to the Ombudsman, the Second Authority for Television and Radio, Kanfei Nesharim 3, Givat Sheul, P.O.B. 34122, Jerusalem 95464, or Fax. 02-521830.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Opgal Optronic Industries has won a \$13 million contract to supply the US Marines with prior night systems, the Karmiel-based company announced yesterday.

Opgal's systems are designed for the NTS-Night Targeting System and installed in the Super-Cobra helicopters which the Marines use.

Opgal will supply its systems to primary contractors, Israel Aircraft Industries/Tamam and a US company, so they can be integrated into its targeting system. The systems will be supplied during 1995.

Ace Spade Investments goes green: Ace Spade announced it intends to form a subsidiary to seek opportunities in metal reclamation, energy and ecology. As a first step, the subsidiary will execute a NIS 1m., 37.5 percent share purchase, entitling it to 51.1% management rights in a metals recycling plant.

Meir Ezra increases holdings in Sunfrost: Meir Ezra and Sunfrost's holding company Clal Industries executed a share trade on Sunday, whereby Meir Ezra sold 4.9% of outstanding shares in T-Bone Veal to a third party for NIS 4.4m., reducing its holdings to 25.7%. Meir Ezra also purchased 3% outstanding shares in Williger for some NIS 800,000, increasing its holdings to 6.1%.

Meir Ezra then sold Clal Industries shares in T-Bone Veal, Williger, Poseidon, Off Tene Industries and Dag Shean for some NIS 11.8m. Meir Ezra currently holds 20.8% in T-Bone, 25.7% in Poseidon, 3.1% in Williger, 28% in Off Tene and 39.5% in Dan Shean.

Meir Ezra purchased 13% of shares in Sunfrost from Clal Industries, bringing its total holdings in Sunfrost to 17% for NIS 11.8m. Clal will continue to hold some 55% in Sunfrost.

Sunfrost will market several products manufactured by companies from the Meir Ezra group, according to distribution agreements signed between the two companies.

PM okays \$60m. for TAAS: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday approved \$45m. in government loan guarantees and \$15m. in cash for Israel Industries-TAAS to tide it over for the next two weeks.

Meanwhile, a steering committee will review the firm's financial situation and explore proposals to reduce the cost of severance pay agreements and to redivide the firm's production lines among the defense industries. The government has recently learned that TAAS's financial situation is worse than was initially estimated. The government has already spent \$300m. on its recovery.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican stocks up: Mexican stocks trading in the US rose yesterday after news of the likely election victory of Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) candidate Ernesto Zedillo but some share analysts expected profit-taking to follow quickly. In Mexico City, the Mexican house's stock index opened 15.39 points higher at 2,723.37, on early results.

Zedillo's victory had to some extent been discounted by the market, US-based analysts said. Still, the apparent "clean" result and the removal of election uncertainty should boost Mexican stock prices in the US market, they said.

Russians line up for MMM fund shares: Russians still gambling on dreams of getting rich quick, lined up in the rain yesterday to buy shares in the country's best-known investment fund, ignoring a recent price collapse and warnings from the government.

The queues outside the offices of the MMM fund contrasted sharply with panic-stricken scenes at end of last month when the firm slashed the price of its shares to a pittance.

Then anxious investors queued in sunshine to dump their shares. This time it was raining.

Government officials have said MMM is operating a classic pyramid operation, using revenues from the sale of shares to fund an automatic buy-back. But officials said they were powerless to act because pyramid schemes were not illegal.

UK recovery better than expected: Britain's economic recovery is gathering pace according to figures published yesterday, and economists said 1994 growth looks like it's outstripping the 2.75% forecast by the government in June. Revised data from the Central Statistical Office showed that gross domestic product grew at 1% in the second quarter from the first rather than 0.9%.

That meant the economy was 3.7% bigger than in the second quarter of 1993 rather than 3.3%.

The government raised its forecast for full-year growth in June, but only to 2.75% from 2.5%. "That looked cautious even when they made it," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley in London.

Mannesmann reports sharp losses: German industrial group Mannesmann AG yesterday reported a sharp contraction in its losses for the first half of 1994, due to restructuring and economic recovery, and forecast a return to profit for the year as a whole.

Its group net loss in the six months narrowed to \$18 million from \$305m. last year. Sales of \$9.2 billion were up 10% and incoming orders rose 19% to \$11b.

The company made a profit in the second quarter, Joachim Funk, the new management board chairman, said in a letter to shareholders.

Because of weak sales in January and February, results in the first half were still negative, but the company said it expected to make a profit for the full year, after losing \$335m. in 1993.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (21.8.94)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.250	4.500	5.000	
German mark (DM 200,000)	3.875	4.000	5.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	3.675	4.250	4.250	
Yen (10 million yen)	3.125	3.375	3.625	
	0.825	0.750	1.000	

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (22.8.94)

CURRENCY BASKET		BUY		SELL		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	3.250	3.400	3.250	3.400	3.250	3.400	3.250	3.400	3.250
German mark	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980
French franc	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980	2.020	1.980
Japanese yen (100)	3.082	3.104	3.082	3.104	3.082	3.104	3.082	3.104	3.082
Dutch guilder	1.741	1.757	1.741	1.757	1.741	1.757	1.741	1.757	1.741
Swiss franc	2.213	2.230	2.213	2.230	2.213	2.230	2.213	2.230	2.213
Swedish krona	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.400	0.388	0.400	0.388
Norwegian krona	0.443	0.450	0.443	0.450	0.443	0.450	0.443	0.450	0.443
Finland mark	0.483	0.500	0.483	0.500	0.483	0.500	0.483	0.500	0.483
Canadian dollar	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659
Australian dollar	2.182	2.211	2.182	2.211	2.182	2.211	2.182	2.211	2.182
S. African rand	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659	0.670	0.659
Belgian franc (10)	0.347	0.350	0.347	0.350	0.347	0.350	0.347	0.350	0.347
Austrian schilling (10)	2.771	2.782	2.771	2.782	2.771	2.782	2.771	2.782	2.771
Italian lire (1000)	1.919	1.948	1.919	1.948	1.919	1.948	1.919	1.948	1.919
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syrian pound	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lebanese pound	3.712	3.745	3.712	3.745	3.712	3.745	3.712	3.745	3.712
Iran rials (100)	4.846	4.862	4.846	4.862	4.846	4.862	4.846	4.862	4.846
Spanish peseta (100)	2.319	2.346	2.319	2.346	2.319	2.346	2.319	2.346	2.319

* These rates vary according to bank. — Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Beersheba-Salonika in UEFA Cup tonight

ORI LEWIS

HAPOEL Beersheba has a mountain to climb if it wants to continue to the second round of the UEFA Cup.

The Negev side trails Aris Salonika 3-1 from the first leg in Greece two weeks ago and needs a 2-0 victory to advance.

The host southerners will be in red and white for the match and Beersheba's Municipal Stadium is expected to be filled close to its 17,000 capacity for the 4:30 p.m. kickoff (Kol Yisrael will have live commentary).

Tickets have reportedly been selling like hot cakes and both the club and the supporters are optimistic that Beersheba can put itself on the European map with a win over Aris.

But the Greek side should not be taken lightly. The team is fully fit and its star players, Brazilian striker Ivan and Croatian Zoran Lonchar are expected to be in the starting lineup.

Ukrainian Victor Moroz is back for Beersheba and new coach Vitali Savchenko will start him together with the others who played the first leg on August 23.

Only a small number of Greek fans have made the journey from Salonika, and this time it will be the local fans' turn to raise the volume. Beersheba has called in a band from South American-style kibbutzim Bror Hayil and Or Haner in the Negev to help make sure the Greeks get a taste of their own medicine. According to Beersheba, the 20,000 home supporters in Salonika gave them a very difficult time.

The Beersheba lineup is expected to be: Rahamin; Hazut, Davidi, Iluz, Va'alkin, Bokova, Moroz, Madar, Gossayev and Avigdor.

Beardsley, Wilkins out

LONDON (AP) — Newcastle striker Peter Beardsley and Crystal Palace player-manager Ray Wilkins, injured in their teams' season opener this weekend, will both miss at least a month of the Premier League soccer season.

Beardsley underwent surgery yesterday for a broken right cheekbone suffered in a collision with Steve Thompson in the Magpies' 3-1 victory Sunday at Leicester. The team said Beardsley could be out of action for up to six weeks.

"It is a tremendous blow for us to lose a player of Peter's caliber for so long," manager Kevin Keegan said.

Ironically, Beardsley missed the first six weeks of last season with a similar injury to his left cheekbone, smashed by a Neil Ruddock elbow in a pre-season match.

Wilkins, the former England captain, broke a bone in his left foot in Palace's 6-1 home loss Saturday to Liverpool. He limped off the field with eight minutes to play and left the stadium on crutches.

Wilkins, who transferred from Queens Park Rangers in the offseason, will manage from the sidelines starting Wednesday, when Palace travels to Norwich.

Romario returning to Barcelona

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — Brazil's World Cup star Romario looked set to fly back to his Spanish club Barcelona yesterday after an unauthorized month's holiday that angered his employers and coach Johan Cruyff.

Romario has remained in Rio de Janeiro since the end of the World Cup, spending most of his time on the beach, against Dutchman Cruyff's orders.

The Brazilian striker said, "I'll probably suffer some type of punishment. I think it's fair in a way but on the other hand I also have the right to have a holiday after winning the World Cup," he said.

Romario, who described Cruyff as a "good trainer," said he was not bothered at being called irresponsible. "I used to get much more upset. Of course, I would like people to think in a different way. But what can I do?"

Nine positive drug tests hushed up at '84 games

LONDON (AP) — Nine positive drug tests at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics were covered up, according to a BBC television program.

The drug-testing laboratory was shut down before the Games ended and files on the positive tests were destroyed, according to two anti-doping officials interviewed for Monday's "On The Line" program.

While 12 positive doping cases were made public earlier during the Games, nine other positive tests were allegedly never acted upon during the last two days of competition.

Craig Kammmerer, identified as director of the Olympic testing laboratory at UCLA at the time of the Games, told the BBC that five of the nine tests — which are divided into A and B samples — showed the presence of steroids. The others showed testosterone and ephedrine.

"The results were summarized and submitted to the International Olympic Committee medical commission with our proof of what the drug was," Kammmerer said. "We waited as usual for a reply and an appointment and schedule for the opening of the B sample, but it never came. At the end of the Games, we had a whole slew of positives, but no competitor ever showed up for a B sample. We were never given an explanation of why nothing was done."

The allegations were supported by Arnold Beckitt, a Briton who was a member of the IOC medical commission. He was recently dropped from the commission after falling out with other members.

Beckitt claimed that three to four days before the end of the Games, he was told that orders had been given from unidentified high officials to shut down the UCLA lab.

Beckitt said he was told a year later that all documents related to the nine positive cases had been shredded.

"We have no comment on the specific allegations," IOC communications director Andrew Napier said yesterday. "But we would point out that for the first 20 years, until 1988, the IOC and its medical commission were almost alone in the fight against drugs in sport."

"It was in 1988 that the IOC banned the most famous athlete (Ben Johnson) of the Seoul Games and stripped him of his gold medal, and it was only since then, that many other people have joined the IOC in the fight against drugs."

Sanchez Vicario beats Graf in Canada Open

MONTREAL (AP) — Second-seeded Arantza Sanchez Vicario withstood four rain delays and four match points to win the Canada Open women's tennis championship Sunday, beating top-seeded Steffi Graf 7-5, 1-6, 7-6(7-4).

The victory was worth \$150,000 to Sanchez Vicario, a Spaniard who is second to Graf in the world rankings.

Graf, who has seven tournament victories in 11 appearances, earned \$60,000. It was Graf's first loss on hardcourts this season after winning 32 consecutive matches on that surface.

Sanchez Vicario won the Canadian Open for the second time. She also won it in 1992, the last time it was played in Montreal.

The four rain delays lasted a combined 5 hours, including a 90-minute delay before the match began.

Graf lost the first set after being broken in the 11th game but came back strongly to break Sanchez Vicario three times in the second set in a vintage display of hard hitting from the baseline.

Graf, who has a 24-7 career mark against Sanchez Vicario, was on the verge of another victory in the 10th game of the third set. She led 5-4, 40-15, only to have Sanchez Vicario serve off four match points.

"I've had two match points against me, but never four," Sanchez Vicario said. "Steffi had two match points against me at Hamburg and I came back to win."

That was on a clay surface and the only time in four meetings that Sanchez Vicario had defeated Graf.

The players held serve in the last two games to force a tiebreaker, in which Sanchez Vicario maintained the poise she had displayed throughout the match.



GOOD GRIEF — Steffi Graf sits dejectedly after losing Canada Open final.

Graf, bothered by a sore back off and on in the last year, had the injury flare up at the end of the first game in the second set. She stretched out on the sidelines and went back on the court wearing a corset-like brace on her back.

New twists to jazz up tournaments

NEW HAVEN (AP) — Fans attending the Volvo International didn't like the music played between changeovers as much as the other new forms of entertainment being tried for the first time, exit polls show.

That doesn't mean the ATP Tour is giving up on the idea. "Absolutely not," said Larry Scott, executive vice president of the International Group of the ATP. He added that the effort to improve the sport will continue.

The ATP Tour chose the Volvo as the site to try out a package of entertainment innovations, including playing music during introductions, warm-ups and changeovers, and letting fans interview winning players.

The survey also gauged how fans felt about two rules in effect since June: allowing fans to cheer during and after play and move from their seats anytime they want as long as they're not in the lowest tier.

The majority of adults and children surveyed enjoyed most of the changes.

The music being played during changeovers became the focus of attention after a tirade by Andre Agassi, a first-round loser.

Afterwards, Agassi ripped the ATP for not getting player approval beforehand and threatened to boycott any other tournament that dared songs on loudspeakers between games, calling the music "an embarrassment to the sport."

12 owners to join talks

NEW YORK (AP) — The owner of the Colorado Rockies was named yesterday to a 12-member owners group that will participate in negotiations with the baseball players.

Although Jerry McMorris repeated during the weekend that he doesn't think a salary cap must be part of the solution, there have been no signs that owners will alter their demand for a cap.

The 12 will assist chief negotiator Richard Ravitch in the talks, although no more than five or six members will participate at any one time.

But before baseball players and owners talk, they have to talk about talking.

In the weird world of baseball labor relations, nothing is simple these days. So as the strike enters its 11th day, Ravitch and union head Donald Fehr are set to get together to discuss the rules of engagement for their next negotiating session, now scheduled for tomorrow.

Fehr compares the pre-discussion discussion to the Paris peace talks on the Vietnam War.

"I assume this means we'll be arguing about the shape of the table," he said Sunday. "We intend to tell them they can sit where they please."

Besides McMorris, other owners or club officials announced yesterday were: Bill Bartholomew — Atlanta Braves; Paul Beeson — Toronto Blue Jays; John Harrington — Boston Red Sox; David Glass — Kansas City Royals; Andy McLane — Minnesota Twins; Stuart Meyer — St. Louis Cardinals; David Montgomery — Philadelphia Phillies; Jerry Reinsdorf — Chicago White Sox; Wendy Selig-Frieb — Milwaukee Brewers; Bud Selig — Brewers and chairman of the Major League Executive Council.

Australian swimmers slump, Canadian wrestlers romp

VICTORIA, BC (AP) — Three defeats in five swimming finals. Is this the same Australian team that boasted it would win every swim event at the Commonwealth Games?

After winning nine finals in a row in two days, the Australians were restricted to two Sunday as English swimmers won two and Canada, at last, won its first. "It's good to be able to show the Australians that they're not unbeatable," said Karen Pickering, star of England's come-from-behind triumph in the women's 400 freestyle.

"And it was our team strength, too, in the relay. We showed that they won't have it all their own way."

England's Adam Ruckwood also won the 200 backstroke and Stephen Clarke gave Canada's its first swimming gold of the games in the men's 100 freestyle. Australia had won that event every Commonwealth Games since 1962.

Elsewhere, Canada swept the five wrestling finals, South Africa won its first medal after a 36-year absence and India gained a rare gold in shooting.

Track and field was scheduled to make its first appearance yesterday with world and Olympic champion Linford Christie beginning the defense of his Commonwealth title in the 100 meters.

Australia had a winning start in the pool when Hayley Lewis, who won five golds at Auckland four years ago, collected her second of these games in the women's 400 freestyle. Her 4 minutes 12.56 seconds gave her the edge over countrywoman Stacey Gartrell with England's Sarah Hardcastle third.

Clarke then ended Australia's streak by sprinting to win the men's 100 freestyle in 50.21, beating Australians Chris Fydlar and defending champion Andy Bailton.

Australia seemed sure to win the women's 100 backstroke but it was Nicole Stevenson who won ahead of favored Eli Overton who was second.

Then came Ruckwood's unexpected victory in a games record time over Australia's Commonwealth record holder Scott Miller and the English relay team's stunning triumph in the 400 meters freestyle.

Pickering came from third to win the race in the final leg and the English won in a games record 3:46.23. Australia was second with long time leader Canada third.

In the wrestling competition, the Canadians were unbeatable.

Selwyn Tam defeated England's Andrew Hutchinson 10-0 at 52 kilograms, Marty Calder beat England's John Melling 3-1 at 62 kg, David Hohl pinned Australia's Reinhold Oszlme after 3:10 at 74 kg, Scott Bianco rallied from a 3-0 deficit for a 4-3 overtime victory over Kodai Victor of Nigeria at 90 kg, and Andrew Borodov decisioned Nigeria's Bidei Jackson 5-3 at 130 kg.

On Saturday Canadians won four of five golds — their only loss coming because of an injury.

Leaders Warwickshire feel pressure

LONDON (Reuters) — Sunday cricket league leaders Warwickshire, with Brian Lara sidelined by a sprained knee, were humbled by two Yorkshire rookies in a shock 54-run defeat.

Alex Wharf took three for 39 and fellow 19-year-old Gavin Hamilton two for 27 as Warwickshire were bowled out for 155.

The Yorkshire heroes with the bat were David Byas and Richard Blakey, who both hit 55, the latter remaining undefeated following a whirlwind 55-ball knock including six boundaries.

Warwickshire took advantage of Warwickshire's undoing to draw level at the top of the 21-run triumph over Nottinghamshire.

A batting 75 from Chris Lewis threatened to deny them, but the visitors were dismissed for 148 on a slow wicket with Stuart Lampitt taking four for 22 and Neal Radford three for 43.

The hosts had been restricted to a modest 169 for nine with Notts spinner Jimmy Hindson taking four for 19 on his debut.

Carl Hooper strengthened Kent's position by hitting a century in a crushing 76-run triumph at Derby, their seventh successive win.

Hooper's 113 off 83 balls was his best in the Sunday league and, with Matthew Walker's unbeaten 69, swept Kent to an impressive 295 for four, the county's highest total in a 40-overs match.

Hooper then took four wickets as the hosts' challenge petered out on 219.

England reject Robin Smith was another century-maker as Hampshire recorded a seven-wicket win over Surrey.

Smith blasted an unbeaten 110 and Tony Middleton 73 after Surrey had rattled up a formidable 261 for eight. Alistair Brown hitting a fearsome 99 despite the considerable efforts of Kevin James, who took five for 42.

Lancashire kept up its title challenge when Neil Fairbrother hit 63 in 58 balls in a five-wicket win over Gloucestershire.

Mark Alleyne had earlier stroked an undefeated 83 for the visitors in a total of 198 for eight, but even Courtney Walsh with three for 28 could not halt the Red Rose's victory march.

Somerset beat bottom club Essex by 85 runs at Weston-super-Mare and Northamptonshire missed out by 34 runs despite making 235 in a high-scoring encounter against Middlesex.

In yesterday's action, Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by five wickets in the fourth one-day international at Colombo to take a winning 3-1 lead in the five-match series. Scores: Sri Lanka — 174 for nine in 50 overs. Pakistan — 175 for five in 41.4 overs. The fifth and final match will be played tomorrow.

At Scarborough, Warwickshire beat Yorkshire by 8 wickets. Yorkshire 310 in 104.5 overs and 347 (M.Moxon 116, R.Blakey 77; R.Davis 7-94). Warwickshire 459 in 151.4 overs and 200-2 (R.Twose 86 not out). Yorkshire 5 points, Warwickshire 24.

At Kidderminster, Worcestershire beat Nottinghamshire by 5 wickets. Nottinghamshire 331 in 114.4 overs and 315-7 declared (T.Robinson 134). Worcestershire 285 in 96.5 overs and 365-5 (G.Haynes 141, T.Curtis 118 not out). Worcestershire 22 points, Nottinghamshire 5.

At Northampton, Northamptonshire beat Middlesex by 6 wickets. Middlesex 398 in 109.4 overs and 368-3 declared (M.Gainger 201 not out, J.Carr 106 not out). Northampton 342 in 139.4 overs and 308-4 (R.Bailey 129 not out, A.Lamb 54).

Sunday League standings

W	L	T	N	Pts
Warwickshire	14	10	3	42
Worcestershire	13	10	3	40
Yorkshire	14	10	4	40
Lancashire	13	9	4	39
Derbyshire	14	7	5	38
Gloucestershire	13	7	4	38
Surrey	14	6	5	38
Durham	14	5	5	38
Hampshire	13	6	7	34
Middlesex	14	5	8	34
Sussex	14	5	8	34
Leicestershire	13	7	6	32
Nottinghamshire	14	4	7	32
Northamptonshire	14	4	8	30
Essex	14	4	8	30
Warwickshire	14	2	10	1

Bumpy greens 'making fools' of top bowlers

VICTORIA (Reuters) — One of England's leading bowlers officials said on Sunday that the increasingly poor state of the greens at the Commonwealth Games was making the sport's top names look like club players.

Mal Hughes, England's team manager for a decade, said several competitors had complained about the bumpy conditions on at least two greens at the Juan de Fuca recreation center.

"Good bowlers are being made to look like fools at times," said Hughes, a former world team gold medalist. "It's disconcerting for the players. Some have commented to me that the crowd must be saying 'I can't understand how these guys are international.'"

Three-times world singles champion Richard Corrie from Scotland described the conditions as terrible on Sunday after beating his Kenyan opponent 25-9 on one of the most uneven lanes.

Event organizer Fran McAdoo said a fungal growth had affected the greens and admitted they were becoming less reliable by the day. "We have had a bit of a problem with a fungus infection. It's under control, but it has had repercussions," he said.

"None of the team managers have complained to me but I will be discussing the situation with our greenkeeper Lloyd Woods."

To complicate matters after several days of clear skies and warm sunshine, a storm warning was issued for the area on Sunday with heavy rain forecast to make conditions even more awkward at the exposed venue.

Among those in action as the clouds began to gather was Australian defending men's champion Rob Parrella who looked dangerously close to blowing his gold medal chances when he trailed Northern Ireland's William Smyth 20-16.

Having lost to Zimbabwe's Mark McCormick on Saturday, a second round-robin defeat would have ended Parrella's hopes of retaining his title, but he battled his way out of trouble to win 25-20.

England's Tony Allcock was also given a scare by Namibian Ian Crawford before winning 25-21.

US race car driver remains on life support

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — American race car driver Eric Irwin remained on life support and in critical condition Sunday, a day after a crash at Michigan International Speedway that left him with severe head and chest injuries.

Irwin was injured during a practice session for Sunday's GM Goodwrench Dealers 400 when the right front tire on his Ford Thunderbird appeared to be cut, sending the car nearly head-on into the turn two wall.

"His vital signs over the past 24 hours have been stable and his blood pressure, pulse and vital functions remain on life support, said Dr. Errol Erdanson, surgeon.

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